

Custandi See dage I



Mike Tyson – down to his iast \$1**50,**000. See pare 26



**FEATURES** 

Shamed – but a wife stands by her man. See page 17



Want to get ahead? Get

# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 5 February 1998 45p

# Stones man to put the honky tonk into Mandy's Dome

ROCK AND ROLL stage set designer Mark Fisher, who over the past 25 years has worked with the including the Rolling Stones, Tina times a day in low season. Turner, Pink Floyd, Phil Collins, and

magic to the Millennium Dome.

in the central plaza in the dome, six a spectacle. most famous rock acts in the world, times a day in peak season and three

Twelve thousand people are R.E.M. has been recruited to bring expected to watch each performance reputation for the creation of spec-

World, Jean-Michel Jarre and the out all over the world. This is the City of Moscow, will stage the show designer who can turn an event into

Mr Fisher, 50, is a British architect who trained at the Architectural Association, with an international which will last about 20 minutes, but tacular rock concerts. His recent and directed shows for Walt Disney designer of the Stones concerts sold which he catapulted the band on the biggest grossing shows in the US. by 3 million people in the United with an plaza. Mackintosh is said to

By Nonie Niesewand Design Correspondent

stage in a 60ft revolving lemon, and "Bridges to Babylon" for the Stones. ruins of past civilisations. Both Pop-

rock and roll, but it'll be spiritually uplifting and optimistic about the future." Mr Fisher said.

His first show for the Stones in That set deconstructs with Egyptian 1990, "Steel Wheels", catapulted the plans for a musical to be staged on columns and doric columns and the band from eight to three in the worldwide chart of top performance earn- pensive that they were scrapped. So The man who has also designed these figures don't frighten the work includes "Popmart" for U2 in man and Bridges to Babylon proved ers. That road show, which was seen

"The show won't be the history of States, generated revenues exceed- have needed £250m to equip it. He

He has up-staged the impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh, whose the original auditorium proved so exwas the auditorium, to be replaced British pop culture is all about."

ing \$100m and cost the band \$18m is still retained as a creative adviser. Mr Fisher won't be drawn on his ballpark figure for the Milleonium Experience. "It'll be splendidly expensive and completely wonderful.

I am thrilled at them asking rock and

rollers to show the world what real Jumping Jack Flash, page 4

US military planners pick their date for air strikes as Yeltsin attacks Clinton and warns of impending world war

# Blitz on Saddam is just 2 days

VIR STRIKES against targety in Iraq will start in 12 days time on 17 February, if current diplomatic moves to defuse the crisis fail sources in Washington inave told The Independent. Planners consider this the optimum date for an attack, although President Bill Clinton would

have to give the final go-ahead. The date would allow the United States and Britain to say that they have given ample time for diplomatic moves by Russia and France to bear fruit. Asked about the timing of military action this week Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said: "It is not days and not months. That means weeks."

By then the US will have three curriers in the Gulf. and Britain one, Kuwait appears to have agreed to allow aircraft to phe operate from its territory. William Cohen, the US Defense

Secretary, says that the intensity FIRS of the air attack "would be far caughmore that what has been expecame ienced in the past, certainly partici ince the Persian Gulf war". hotel r. The US says it will bomb fa- This has been standard Iraqi

Exclusive

By Patrick Cockburn

cilities for making or storing biological and chemical weapons, command-and-control centres. and special units of the Republican Guard. But this list is vaguer than it looks. The United Nations weapons inspectors - Unscom - have suspicions about buildings that might be used to make or keep unconventional weapons, but no proof. The destruction of almost any large building in Iraq could be justified by saying it holds unconventional weapons.

The present location of command-and-control centres is also uncertain. General Wafiq al-Sammara'i, the tormer head of Iraqi military intelligence. who went into exile in 1994. said: "All official headquarters for intelligence, mukhabarat [general security] and defence will have been evacuated and moved to new hiding places."

Iraq war, other Iraqi sources say. The third target mentioned publicly by the Pentagon is the special Republican Guard unit. This is the practorian guard of President Saddam Hussein and is said by Unscom to be in charge of concealing unconventional weapons and the means to deliver them. General Sammara'i says: "It is a complete division with about 20,000 men and 50 tanks deployed

mainly in Baghdad. The problem for US and British military planners is that to strike all three targets effec-

military practice since the Iran- tively is not just a matter of ac- that the Russian diplomatic inicuracy but of good intelligence. It would be easy for Iraq to conceal its remaining non-conventional weapons, which even the highest estimates out at 75 mis-

> Action against the Republican Guard might be easier. But it is stationed mainly in Bughdad and could not be hit without causing civilian casualties. From Mr Cohen's remarks, it appears that the US and Britain will not tareet the civilian infrastructure such as power stations and oil re-

siles and some warheads.

fineries, as they did in 1991. There were signs yesterday

tiative might defuse the crisis as it did last November. President Boris Yeltsin emphasised how seriously he took developments in the Gulf by warning that US actions might lead to a world war. He said that President Clinton was "acting too noisily".

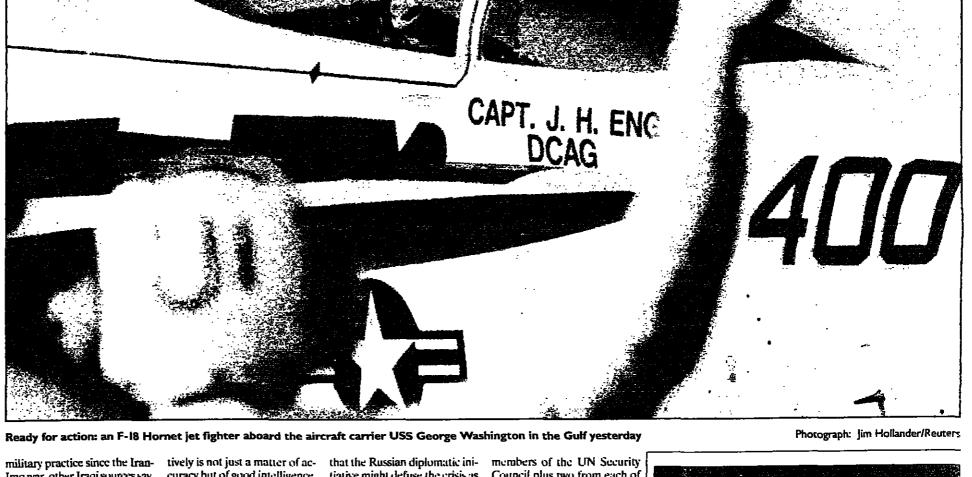
a world war might begin. In Iraq there were indications that President Saddam might compromise. He has reportedly agreed to give access to eight of his palaces, with a new formula of five inspectors appointed by each of the 15

He did not spell out how such

members of the UN Security Council plus two from each of the 21 countries of the UN Spe-

cial Commission (Unscom). The US and Britain are likely to dismiss the Iraqi plan as an attempt to marginalise Unscom. They will also suspect that President Saddam would like to reneat his factic of last November by defusing the present crisis, but repeating the challenge to the UN inspectors in a month or two. Rather than face repeated confrontations with Iraq they may wish to start military action

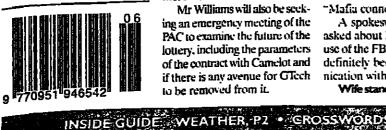
in less than two weeks' time. Crisis reports, pages 12-13



## of a rocall for investigation into exponen amelot's lottery licence

of the lottery licence to elot after revelations in Independent that former alator Peter Davis may have iled Parliament over crucial isinessmen bidding for the Antract, write Kim Sengupta and Colin Brown.

Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Swansea West and a member of the powerful House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will ask Sir John Bourn to find out exactly what steps Mr Davis took to check applicants' backgrounds out by the FBI. But an FBI before awarding the franchise



Auditor General will be to a consortium including the d to investigate the grant- controversial US firm GTech. It has been disclosed that Mr

Davis, who has been temporarily replaced by his deputy. John Stoker, approached specialist investigators Kroll Asarrity checks on American sociates to carry out confidential "due diligence" checks on 100 individuals just weeks before the contract was awarded to Camelot in 1994. The operation, according to security experts, would have taken at least three months. The contract was not given to Kroll and Mr Davis later told the PAC that the checks had been carried spokesman in Washington said

> there was no record of this. Mr Williams will also be seeking an emergency meeting of the PAC to examine the future of the lottery, including the parameters of the contract with Camelot and if there is any avenue for GTech to be removed from it.



John Stoker: New regulator

The controversy was fuelled in the Commons yesterday when Alan Clark MP asked the Goverament to strip Camelot of the licence because of GTech's "Mafia connections".

A spokeswoman for Oflot, asked about Mr Davis' alleged use of the FBI, said: "There has definitely been some communication with the FBI." Wife stands by man, page 17

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#### Today's news Peps rethink

GORDON BROWN is prepared to make concessions in his plans for new Individual Savings Accounts. The Chancellor indicated yesterday that savers could transfer into a new account from existing Tessus and Peps without breaching the £50,000 lifetime limit on

Page 4

Plutonium problem BRITAIN is creating more and more plutonium without any credible long-term plans for dealing with it, says the Royal Society, Stocks of the toxic, radioactive metal are set to double over the next 10 years to 100 tons. Page

Tooth delay

ISAs.

FEARS of a public backlash have forced ministers to change their minds over plans to extend fluoridation of Britain's water supply to prevent tooth decay. Page S

## The prize that could be the death of you

FEELING low, looking for 15 minutes of fame? You have just a month left to come up with a spectacular way to end it all, writes Paul McCann. Nominations for the annual Darwin Awards for the individual who "removes themselves from the gene pool in the most spectac-

ular fashion" close on 1 March. The Internet-run award is named in memory of Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. The judges are currently tipping David Zaback, 33, from Washington State in the US as the man who has done his species the biggest favour.

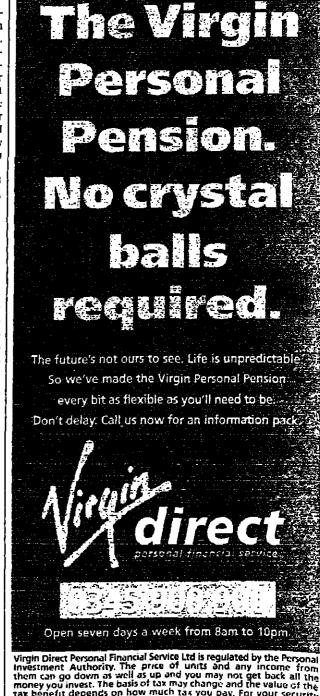
No one knows if Mr Zaback was truly suicidal or just stupid, but he is ahead in the voting after deciding to rob a packed gun shop in a state with more licensed concealed weapons and armed militia

than any in America. ould-be gun thief walked past - floors to his death.

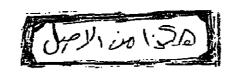
a parked police car on his way into the shop. There is some debate about whether the offduty policeman or the shop assistant shot him first, but another three customers pulled

guns on him anyway. Because the Darwin Awards are about commemorating thuse who remove their dumb DNA from the human gene pool the current second-place candidate falls into the category of "alive but sterile". The unnamed man tried to staple up his testicles after getting them caught in machinery at work while masturbating.

Last year's winner has also become famous. He was Toronto lawyer Garry Hoy, 39. who tried to demonstrate the strength of his building's windows to visiting students by throwing a shoulder against one of them. He crashed To compound his folly the through the window and fell 24



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# Peers warned of casualties in newspaper price war

The battle to curb Rupert Murdoch's press power was stepped up yesterday as peers mustered cross-party support for a critical amendment to the

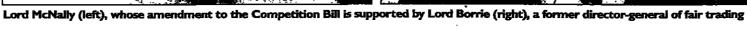
**Government's Competition** Bill. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, analyses the debate.

Lord McNally, the Liberal Democrat spokesman who once served as James Callaghan's parliamentary aide at No 10, warned yesterday that there could be newspaper "casualties" if the legislation went though without his amendment targeting the predatory pricing of newspapers. "It isn't just The Independent

that is in trouble," he said, "or the Telegraph that is haemorrhaging, the whole structure of our newspaper industry is in anarchy as the mo-

Lord McNally said the Government might be refusing to act on the issue at the moment. "But my prediction is that in a very short time, they will have to do something as they will be faced with major casualties. Then there will be a great slamming of stable doors and a weeping of crocodile tears."





20:34 17:56 13:29

12:47 18:59

His Murdoch amendment has the backing of Labour and Tory peers, as well as independent crossbenchers - but the Government will impose a three-line whip against it when it comes up for debate in the Lords on Monday night, arguing that it is not necessary to take specific ac-

tion against Mr Murdoch's price-cutting operations.

But Lord Borrie, a Labour peer and director of the Mirror Group which owns 46 per cent of The Independent - said that as a former director-general of fair trading he believed there was a precedent in the

High tides

Hull (Albert Dock)

Lighting-up times

Fair Trading Act 1973 for taking direct and specific action to protect the diversity of opinion and freedom of

He was supporting Lord Mc-Nally's amendment because it would clarify the Competition Bill.

expression in the press.

Uncertainty about the impact of

INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** lollowed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map

Source: The Met Office. Callis charged at 50p per moral all fames (Inc VAT).

Commission, and the courts under the new legislation". A Labour critic in the Commons

eral of fair trading, the Competition

said last night: "What are ministers for if they cannot tell us what their legislation is going to achieve?"

Lord Borrie said: "This amendment will address the uncertainty that exists in the Bill - as to whether it will cover what has been going on in the newspaper industry; namely the persistent under-cost pricing of the Times newspaper, to the damage of its rivals, particularly The Independent and the Telegraph."

· A News International spokeswoman said yesterday the company would co-operate in any inquiry into its tax liabilities, writes Steve Boggan."We comply with the tax laws and co-operate with the tax authorities in all the countries in which we operate," she said. "That compliance and co-operation will continue."

Sources inside the company said news of the inquiry, revealed in vesterday's Independent, came as a complete shock to Mr Murdoch. Until the legislation has been compoundyesterday's revelations, his repreed by Lord Simon of Highbury, minister for trade and competitiveness sentatives had no idea he was being in Europe, who said in December targeted for special attention. It is that he did not wish to give a view thought his lawyers are planning to about the impact of the legislation contact the tax authorities in the US, because "this would risk trespassing Australia, the UK and Canada to eson the territory of the director-gen- tablish the nature of the inquiry.

IN THE EYE 28 pages of film & music



Kevin Kline: sex, jokes and more sex



WIN a holiday for two in New York

Bob Marley: Early year, forgotten

Paul McGann: A lean little thing who acts big



Olivia Williams: by Kevin

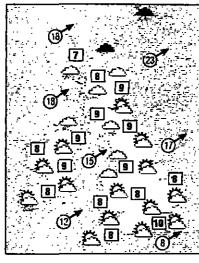
> The Ice Storm: Inside the decaying heart of suburban **USA**

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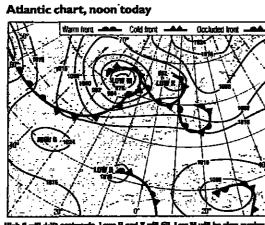
#### WEATHER



It will be a mild day everywhere. Most of Scotland will he cloudy with some drizzle and there will be steadier rain in the north and north-west but eastern parts should be drier with brief surrry spells. Northern heland will have the odd shower, mainly in the north and west, with a little sunshine in the east. England and Wales will start rather cloudy, with spots of rain or drizzle in the north-west and a shower in the southwest, but most parts will be dry with some sunshine

Outlook for the next few days Pain will move across Scotland and Northern fieland, into Wales and northern England, by Friday afternoon. Elsewhere it will be mild and dry with sunny breaks but it will turn wet in the evening or overnight. Rain will clear in the early hours of Saturday, leaving brighter but colder weather with sunny spells and scattered showers. It will become milder again Sunday as more cloud and rain spreads eastwards but in the south there will aust be scorre drizzle.

S England



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#### WEATHER WISE

El Niño has disrupted weather patterns around the world Here are the latest items for which it must take the credit or blame.

Kenya: According to an official count, there are now more than 1.5 million flamingos around Lake Nakuru in the

been largely absent from the lake for the past 10 years, but El Niño has brought the ideal weather for them to return in force. "They are back, and it is very nice to have them," said Daniel Kilonzo, senior warden at Nakuru National Park.

Falling water levels in the

Rift Valley. The birds have 1980s had affected the salinity of the lake and driven the flamingos away, but the recent torrential rain has restored

> Mexico: Storms blowing in from the United States have brought unusually cold weather to normally balmy

spots in Mexico. Light snow was reported in 10 Mexican states on Tuesday. At least three people - two in Cuba and one in Guatemala - were reported killed in storms.

Guyana: The education ministry in Guyana has announced plans to cut afternoon classes for primary and elementary schools starting next week. This has become necessary as part of a strict water-rationing plan. While high-level winds, caused by El Niño, have protected the Caribbean from hurricanes, they have also led to severe drought in South America.

## Øy! Øy! – Pardon my Norwegian



WILLIAM **HARTSTON** 

Some items raised in readers' letters, starting with a correction to our piece on Shipping Areas:

From the Rev John Williams,

West Wittering, Chichester: A bight is not a smooth stretch of coastline: it's another word for bay. German Bight is the wide bay formed by the coastlines of Jutland, Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony. Its name in German is "Deutsche Bucht", which very definitely

"And Utsire is not the Norwegian for island. That is "øy", connected linguistically with the English place-name suffix "-ey", as in Canvey, Selsey etc. Utsira is a small island off the West coast of Norway."

While grateful to accept that I can't tell my øy from my Utsire, I'm less convinced by bight. The Old English "byht" simply meant a bend, and a bight in a piece of string is any free curve. Chambers 21st Century Dictionary gives "a stretch of gently curving coastline" as one definition.

From KJ Teacher, East Finchley, London:

"For two or three weeks around the winter solstice the Sun both sets and rises each day at a later time. An equivalent situation occurs at the summer

solstice, though here the period during which sunsets and sunrises move in the same direction is much shorter. I'd be fascinated to know why."

It's due to the difference between "Apparent Solar Time" (as read on a sundial) and "Mean Solar Time" (as seen on a clock). Because the Earth's orbit round the Sun is elliptical, and because of the tilt between the axis of the Earth's rotation and the plane of its solar orbit, the time from one sunrise to the next is not constant but varies from about 23 hours and 46 minutes to 24 hours and 16 minutes. Mean Solar time smooths out these differences. At their worst, sundials are 14 minutes slow in February and 16 minutes last in November. The Sun's apparently both rising and setting later around the winter solstice is a symptom of the Earth's catching up with the clock. In summer, the discrepancy is not so wide, and the catching-up period does not take so long. If you want to set your sundial, do it round 15 April, 14 June, 1 September or 25 December - when Mean Solar Time and Apparent Solar Time coincide.

Steven Squires of Luton has sent us a photograph of an unusual rainbow: "... What puzzled me was the fact that the Sun was low in the sky and the curvature of the rainbow was away from the Sun rather than as a halo around it. The red of the rainhow was on the outer curve.

Red on the outer curve is a sign of a secondary rainbow; caused by a double reflection of the light inside each raindrop. These are very puzzling when you cannot see the primary rainbow. Even odder rainbows may be due to sunlight that is first reflected off the still surface of water, then refracted through raindrops.

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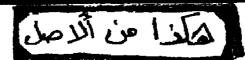
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# Britain's king of the counterculture is killed in car crash

The man considered by most to be Britain's ecstasy guru has died in a car crash. Joson Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, considers the life of an extraordinary individual who epitomised the idea of counterculture.

Throughout his life Nicholas Saunders dared to be different. At one stage he lived in a house in London with a duck pond in the front room and a machine that blew giant bubbles into the road. The property was later destroyed after a Danish girlfriend set light to a papier mache igloo where she had

been meditating. Saunders, who died aged 60 in South Africa on Tuesday in a car crash, championed an unconventional lifestyle during the Sixties with the publi-

drug ecstasy. He was also re- squatting. sponsible for transforming Neal's Yard in Covent Garden into a Mecca for vegetarians, old hippies, and new trendies.

for Ecstasy, have become essential for drug users and researchers, and his Internet website, which displays pictures of ecstasy tablets is accessed three million times a year.

He started to rebel while still very young, attempting to blow had been mildly depressed for up his school chapel at Ampleforth in Yorkshire. The bomb failed to go off.

His father, Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, was director of the London School of Economics, which friends believe was partly responsible for turning his son against authority.

In London in the Sixties he took up squatting and in 1970 he printed the successful Alter-



Saunders and his partner Anya Dashwood

cation of the first Alternative native London guidebook, of-London guide and later cam- fering information on chubs, paigned for the safer use of the the women's movement and

He later developed an old warehouse in the then derelict Neal's Yard and opened the first wholefood warehouse in Lon-His three books, including E don that sold goods in bulk. This lead to a series of other shops including a coffee house, a bakery and a dairy.

In the 1980s he took his first ecstasy tablet, which was to transform his life again. On taking the drug he decided that he the past decade and set about researching the properties of the new substance. This led to the three books and a wealth of original survey work.

On his website - www.ecstasy.org - he published regular photographs of the various ecstasy pills on the market with warnings about what contaminated substances, such as brick dust and speed, they contained.

At the time of his death he was completing research into a book about natural drugs used by tribes throughout the world.

He died of a brain haemorrhage after the car he was being driven in overturned three times on a road at Kroonstadt, about two and a half hours from Johannesburg. His driver was injured and there are suggestions that the car had been deliberately targeted by roadside hijackers. Certainly robbers had rified his pockets before the ambulance arrived.

Yesterday friends and drug experts paid their tributes.

Georganne Downes, a girlfriend of Saunders throughout the Seventies, and now the Countess of Uxbridge, added: "He was an alternative Richard Branson. Everything he touched turned to gold, although he always did everything on the cheap.



One in the eye: Microsoft boss Bill Gates after the custard pie attack in Brussels yesterday

# Gates gets a pasting from the custard pie champion

One of the world's richest man received an unexpected pasting yesterday, as unidentified pranksters in Brussels hurled a pie at Bill Gates.

The projectile was well aimed. The Microsoft boss was reduced to a slapstick figure of fun, his spectacles plastered over and his suit of the finest cloth bespattered with gunk.

Topping the list of potential suspects is Noel Godin, a kind of Belgian Dennis Pennis armed with confectioner's custard, who specialises in leaving egg on the faces of the rich and famous. Previous victims included the French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy and

the film-maker Jean-Luc Godard. The Microsoft boss, whose personal

wealth at Christmas was believed to have topped a prodigious \$36.8bn (£23bn), came under fire as he was on his way into the Concert Noble, where he was about to attend a reception hosted by Flemish politicians. Two men were arrested.

A Microsoft spokesman said the company would not be pressing charges for the attack. Gates was unhurt, though visibly embarrassed, and after a clean-up in a side room emerged for a meeting with the Flemish Prime Minister Luc van den Brande.

The custard missile may have been the work of a self-publicist, but there are plenty of other signs that public opinion, not least in the United States, wants to see Gates eat humble pie.

All this in spite of some cringemaking displays of "humanity" on late-night talk shows in the US, where he sang "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star", and a public pledge to outdo CNN's

Ted Turner in the philanthropy stakes. In his worst legal defeat, America's Justice Department recently ordered the Microsoft boss to stop forcing computer manufacturers to install Miscrossit's Internet browser on its PCs.

The furore surrounding the case transformed Gates' image - from the charmless but harmless lord of the computer world's geeks and nerds to a bully bent on world domination.

Now there are reports of crossed wires in cyber-wizzard's new \$40m palace. "I brought up a big screen in my bedroom to watch a programme and for some reason the system stopped working," he confessed to TV talk-show host Barbara Walters, "It was sitting there shining and I wanted to go to sleep. So finally I had to get a blanket and put it over the screen."

--- Marcus Tanner

# Elton and Stevie to provide Bill and Tony with some aural stimulation

It is well known in Washington circles that Bill Clinton loves nothing better than a bit of aural stimulation, so tonight he is in for something of a treat. Steve Boggan reports.

As a surprise for his special guest Tony Blair, the President has lined up Elton John and Stevie Wonder for a special White House performance of the duet Ebony and Ivory to conclude day one of the Tony and Bill show.

There has been talk for some time of Elton John performing for Mr Clinton at a star-spangled dinner tonight,

but yesterday it emerged that Wonder would also be there to sing the song he made famous with Paul McCartney.

The White House dinner is the hottest ticket in town, with guests including Sting and his wife, Trudie Styler, together with a host of America's rich and famous. Sir Paul, who wrote the number one song in 1982, and his American wife,

Linda, were also invited but were not able to attend. Two pianos are to be set up

on the West Terrace, where a half-hour of entertainment is scheduled at the end of what promises to be a lavish dinner. The President, a keen sax-

ophonist, and the Prime Minister, a guitarist, were rumoured for a while to be considering a jam session but

Capricia Marshall, Mr Clinton's social secretary, said talk of Mr Clinton getting his instrument out for a blow was incorrect. It was on everyone's lips until yesterday.

The choice of the duet is not thought to be significant, although the verse - "We all know that people are the same wherever we go/ There is good and bad in everyone/ We learn other what we need to survive together alive" - has elements reflecting the President's past week: badness, forgiveness and

survival. "The President wanted to keep the performance as a surprise for Tony but word leaked out from Washington," said a Whitehall source. "It's being seen as a terrific gesture and

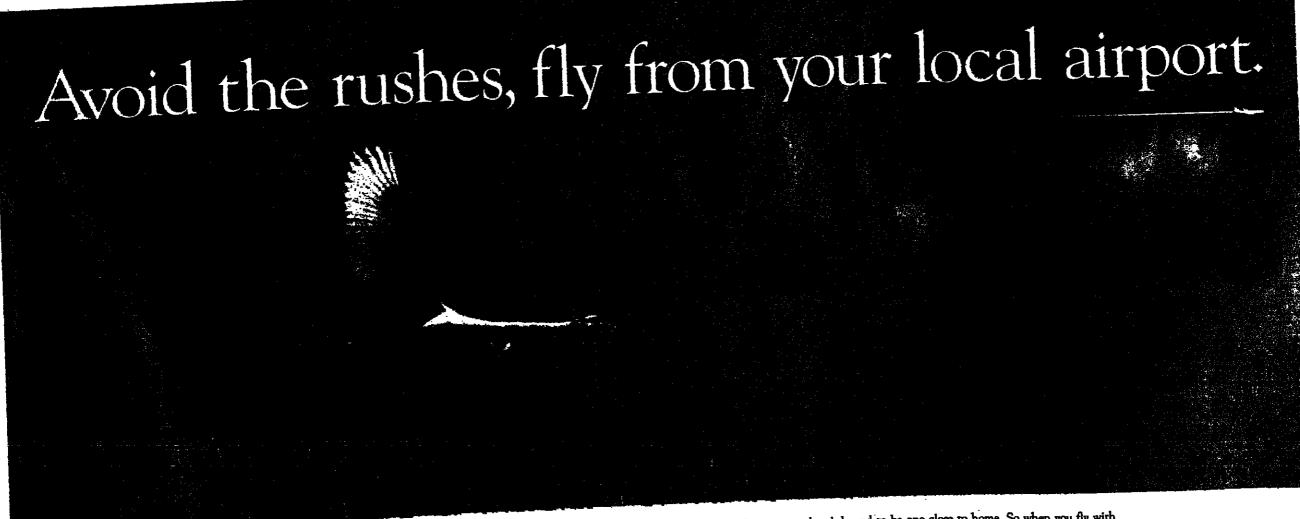
It is not clear yet whether

Elton John will perform "Candle in the Wind" in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, but many observers think it un-

He said after her funeral that he did not intend to perform it before a live audience. Mr Blair flew to Washing-

to live, we learn to give/ each Tony's really looking forward ton on Concorde last night and breakfast with the Irish congressional lobby before lunch with Mr Clinton and a visit to

a school. Tonight's festivities will begin at 8.45pm, when Mr Clinton will propose the toast and Mr Blair will respond. The tinkling of the ivories will begin at 10.15pm.



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# Chancellor to back down over plan to curb Peps

The Chancelior is prepared to make concessions in his plans to introduce new Individual Savings Accounts following a storm of controversy over the proposals. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports on a partial victory for critics of the planned accounts.

Gordon Brown has indicated to officials that he is prepared to concede ground on some of the criticisms of the proposed Individual Savings Account during the consultation period.

The most likely change would be an increase in the amount that people can transfer into a new account from existing Peps and Tessas without breaching the £50,000 lifetime cap on contributions to the new accounts, according to senior sources.

The change of heart is thought to reflect ministerial unhappiness with the perception attractive to low-income savers that the ISAs are part of a covert attack on the middle classes as much as an admission that the proposals are genuinely flawed.

argued that the switch from Peps and Tessas to ISAs will discourage middle-class savers without increasing saving by the less well-off by very much. Most recently the National Institute for growth of the fund. Economic and Social Research. a respected independent thinktank, said the Government's proposals would reduce the amount saved in Britain.

The main criticisms of ISAs by the financial services industry, however, have focused on reform. the difficulty of administering

the £50,000 lifetime limit. Potential providers of the accounts have said it will be difficult to keep track of separate accounts and to monitor withdrawals.

However, Treasury sources have already indicated that there is no intention to raise or abandon the £50,000 ceiling.

However, there has also been much unhappiness with the fact that the cap imposes a de facto limit on the amount that can be transferred from existing Peps and Tessas. This will affect between 10 and 15 per cent of current holders of Peps, according to the Inland Revenue.

A concession increasing the amount that can be transferred from existing accounts is likely to be announced in the Budget on 17 March.

Prudential, the UK's biggest life insurer, yesterday proposed that the Government should link the new Individual Savings Account with its other major reform of personal finance, stakeholder pensions.

The Pru said it shares concerns that ISAs will be made at the expense of pension saving. In its Budget submission to the Government it said it wants ISA savers to be able to shift Certainly, many experts have money into pensions with no tax

> The Pru also suggested cash bonuses for long-term saving instead of the proposed tax credit of 10 per cent on the

Its submission repeats a criticism made by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. In its "Green Budget" report last month, it argued that reform of tax concessions for saving should have been explicitly linked to pension

Budget for work, page 20

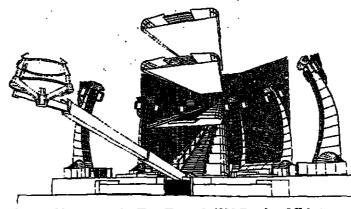


## 'Jumping Jack Flash' who will transform Dome

It will be a terrific, full blast, megawatt, stage struck experience. Mark Fisher's raw materials are scaffolding, fireworks and dry ice, inflatable models, enough flashing lights to illuminate Milton Keynes for one night, and half a million watts. And he's planning the show of the century at the Millennium Dome.

In the United States his show for the Rolling Stones' 1990 Steel Wheels tour saw the band jump from eight to three in the world-wide chart of top performance earners. It generated revenues of more than \$100m and was seen by 3 million people. Unassuming Fisher says mildly that he just uses special effects to highlight the performers. His lack of ego makes him a great team player.

The Stones "Bridges to Babylon" tour of Mexico moves to Europe in May and the UK in August. "Popmart", in which he catapulted U2 on stage in a 60ft rotating lemon is touring the Far East. Bono wrote "Too Much is Not Enough" around Fisher's sleuthwork for the set - it's the title of an autobiography by Morris Lanidus who designed the American supermarkets of the Fifties and Six-



Fisher Park's concept for Tina Turner's 1990 Foreign Affair tour, which was designed to play in indoor and outdoor venues

is not a subtle medium," he says.

From his modest north London house. Architectural Association trained Fisher designs shows for Tina Turner, the Stones, U2 and Janet Jackson. So you can see why he thinks the Dome is a truly wonderful thing to be asked to work on. Outing MI6 agents is easier than getting names from the New - or even

ties and Fisher just loved it. "Rock Confidentiality pressures on every player under the Dome prevent

him from commenting on his role. What catapulted Fisher to fame was the Berlin concert for Roger Waters of Pink Floyd in 1990. No sooner had the wall come down than Mark Fisher, with his then partner Jonathan Park, built the largest set in the world from 2,500 styrofoam bricks stretching 550 feet across No the Old - Millennium Experience. Man's Land for a one-night gig.

Blood red at first, it was a backdrop to the military parade with gigantic projections written in 60ft high letters. "All in all it's just another hole in the wall" was blasting out as be blew it up in a flurry of styro-foam bricks. He recycled them as cavity wall insulation after the show.

Good on recycling, he turned old inflatable Honky Tonk Women from the Stones "Steel Wheels" set into gargoyles to highlight an exhibition of "Portable Architecture" at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

To camouflage the scaffolding skeleton, theatrical scrims are painted or left plain for projected images. A few 3D effects vary the monotony of everything taking place on one level. Fisher knows how to work with set riggers on the skeletal structure since they are capable of "modifying it" which means leaving it behind. Sets have to be capable of being built

in 60 hours, up to 250 times in a tour. One thing is for sure. If Mark Fisher signs his contract early next week, the dome will have at least one terrific crowd pulling attraction.

— Nonie Niesewand Design Correspondent

#### **RUC** too cautious about change

Senior management of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was last night criticised for being too cautious over making changes in the force. Colin Smith, the Inspector of Constabulary with responsibility for the RUC, told MPs every recommendation he had made about the force had been acted on. But he criticised the slowness with which this happened.

He told the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee: "There is excessive caution in introducing change." He excepted the present Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, who had been "totally and completely responsive to every recommendation I've made".

"But in the higher echelons there has been a reluctance to take brave decisions and move forward," he said.

#### MPs to examine Chinook crash

A new inquiry is to be launched into aspects of the RAF Chinook helicopter disaster on the Mull of Kintyre in which 29 people died, MPs decided yesterday.

The investigations will concentrate on general issues arising from the crash. Twenty-five Northern Ireland intelligence experts and four crew died when the helicopter crashed into a remote hillside in thick mist in 1994. An RAF board of inquiry blamed "gross negligence" by the two pilots, which their families have rebutted. The Commons defence select committee will call Armed Forces Minister John Reid to give evidence. - Andrew Buncombe

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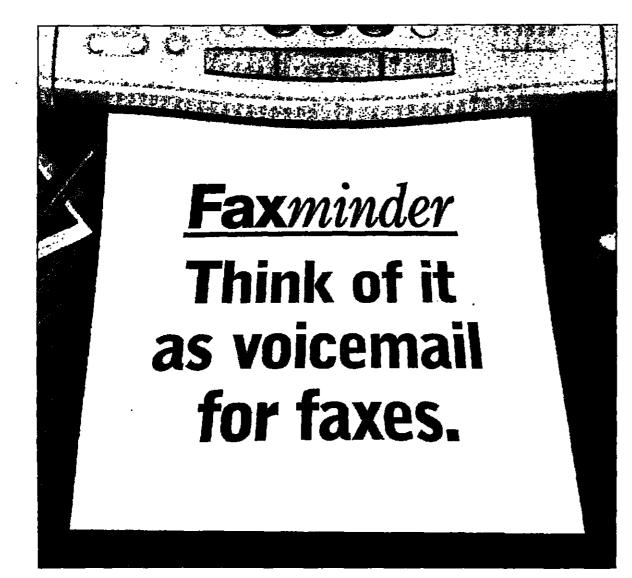
#### Riddle of worms in very hot water

Scientists have been stumped by deepsea worms which thrive in temperatures almost hot enough to boil water.

The Pompeii worm, Alvinella pompeiana, lives around volcanic hydrothermal vents more than a mile-and-a-half deep on the floor of the Pacific ocean.

Fluid gushing from the metal-sulphide "chimneys" of the vents can reach 300C. The four-inch-long worms live in tubes attached to the chimney walls, where their bottom ends simmer at 80C while their tops chill out at a coolish 20C.

Nature journal reported yesterday that scientists think the worms may survive by being insulated by hairy-looking bacterial hitchhikers that coat their bodies.



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The boys' mother, Joanne Morris, said she had always made sure that they brushed their teeth properly, had few sweets and sugary drinks and visited the dentist regularly. "Despite all that, Kieran's top teeth were like black stumps in his mouth," she said. "He started getting abscesses and he was in a lot of pain. After Kieran's problems, I took extra care with Dylan, but his went bad too."

Mrs Morris is considering joining a group legal action against North West Water, which has resisted fluoridating water supplies although regional health authorities have offered to fund it. "I want to help prevent other children from suf-



Is brushing enough? Medical experts say fluoridation of water supplies could even out dental health inequalities between rich and poor Photograph: John Lawrence

Julie Newell admits that her two children, Charlotte, eight, and Matthew, six, are not conscientious about cleaning their teeth. Nevertheless, both of them have perfect teeth, and they have never visited the dentist for anything more than a check-up.

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"I feel very fortunate to live where I do," said Mrs Newell, who lives in Solihull, in the West Midlands. "A lot of my friends have got children of the same age, and none of them have any problems with their teeth either."

A recent survey, by the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry, found that residents of the West Midlands enjoyed the best dental health in England. The water in the region has been fluoridated for many years.

Mrs Newell's husband, John, said: "The children eat a lot of sweets and we always warn them that they'll ruin their teeth, but when they go to the dentist, they never need to have anything done. The only thing I can put it down to is the fluoride. I feel very sorry for families in unfluoridated areas. Children deserve the right to have decent teeth."

# Fluoride fear condemns children to tooth decay

A government Green Paper on public health published today will ignore one of the simplest, most effective ways of tackling health inequalities: adding fluoride to drinking water. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports.

Fears of a public backlash have forced ministers to change their minds over plans to extend fluoridation of Britain's water supplies to prevent tooth decay.

Tessa jowell, the for public health, has bowed to pressure from cabinet colleagues worried about the civil liberties implications of requiring water companies to introduce a chemical additive

to their supplies. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, wrote to Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, last October urging him to meet anti-fluoridation campaigners. "Having looked carefully and objectively at both sides. I do feel that theirs is a valid point of view," he

wrote. Ms Jowell favours further fluoridation and has described as "unacceptable" the refusal of some private water companies to consult with health authorities on the issue.

The National Alliance against Dental Health Inequalities, representing 31 medical, dental and voluntary organisations, has called for legislation to give the final say on fluoridation to publicly accountable health authorities, rather than privatised water companies.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said: "Fluoridation of water supplies in deprived areas would halve tooth decay

rates in five-year-olds within five years. This could be achieved at very low cost."

John Hunt, British Dental Association chief executive, said: "The Government has a real opportunity to reduce dental health inequalities. It is unacceptable that water suppliers are dictating public health policy."

In a Commons written answer last November, Ms Jowell said the Government was reviewing fluoridation, and cited extensive scientific literature in support of its safety. No serious side-effects had been identified, she said.

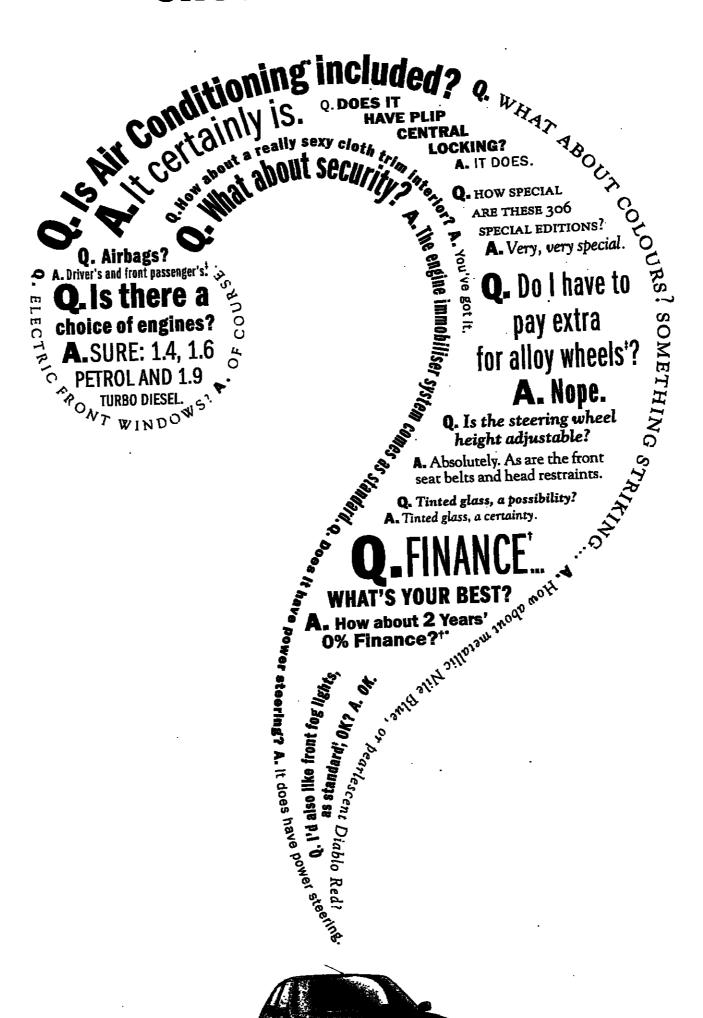
Today's Green Paper, which ill set out the Government's plans for tackling the health gap between rich and poor, is expected to disappoint pro-fluoride campaigners by recommending further consultation. Ms Jowell is understood to have told colleagues she is anxious to "go with the grain of public opinion" and avoid "needlessly intrusive, bossy government".

Fluoride exists naturally in all water supplies. In some areas, such as Hartlepool, the concentration is high enough to reduce tooth decay by about a half. In other areas, the natural level can be topped up.

About 5.5 million people in Britain drink artificially fluoridated water, mainly in the West Midlands and the Northeast. In Sandwell, west Midlands, where fluoride was added in 1988, tooth decay in five-year-olds has fallen by balf. In Blackburn, a less deprived area without fluoridation, it has remained

unchanged. Fears that children using fluoride toothpaste who live in areas with high levels of fluoride in the water may overdose are unfounded, says John Hunt, of the BDA: "The only possible side effect is a minor flecking of tooth enamel."

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The Deputy Prime Minister claimed he had been making adjustments to his private life to become more environmentally friendly: "I use public transport more than private transport and I often take the chance to walk, as I did this morning."

But Mr Prescott brushed aside questions about Tony Blair's choice of Concorde, the world's most polluting vehicle, for his trip ' to achieve them. to Washington yesterday. "It's a great aircraft; next question," he said.

He was speaking at the launch of the a strategy by the year's end. Government's sustainable development initiative aimed at finding out the public's views on how to create "a fairer, greener and richer Britain.

The Government is stressing that fairness and social justice are as important as environmental protection in achieving sustainable development, the mantra of the environmental movement for the past decade. "We have to find a way of making sustainable development meaningful for all our people", said Mr Prescott.

However, only a third of the British public claim to have heard of the phrase and most are unable to define it. According to the consultation document released yes-

John Prescott hinted yesterday that he may have to abandon his beloved private Jaguar terday, sustainable development is "con-cerned with achieving economic growth, in the form of higher living standards, while protecting and where possible enhancing the environment".

To help, 100,000 leaflets have been printed and will be distributed in supermarkets and post offices, among other places. They will invite everyone to give ideas

and views on what the objectives and targets of the sustainable development plan should be, and what policies should be used

The intention of the exercise is to collate a broad range of views in order to draft

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, said: "We shall not achieve sustainable development if the only ones who are involved are politicians and journalists in London.

Ministers will be travelling the country in the next couple of months in an effort to promote the consultation process in the regions. In the meantime, the Deputy Prime Minister said that people, himself included, might have to change their lifestyles and ways of doing business. They might find more gain than pain in doing that. "Whether it's me in a Jaguar or somebody else, let's just get talking about it," he said.



Country conflict: Protesters at the Compassion in World Farming rally against live export trade outside the National Farmers' Union annual meeting in Park Lane, London, yesterday. Inside, Jack Cumningham, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was heckled by farmers Photograph: Suzanne Hubbard

Labour joins

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## forces to put Cook in clear Labour MPs yesterday in the headline on an article in

shouted down Michael Howard's call for Robin Cook to resign for allegedly sacking his diary secretary to make way for his mistress, Gaynor Regan. Colin Brown, Chief Political, Correspondent says Labour hope the Foreign Secretary is now off the hook.

The Government staged a resyesterday to destroy an attack by Michael Howard and Tory backbenchers on the Foreign

Tony Blair dismissed the assault as opposition by "trivial pursuits" but friends of the Foreign Secretary were relieved the carefully planned counterattack on the Tories had secured Mr Cook's position, which, barring further accidents, was no longer under threat at West-

Mr Cook was absent from the chamber, meeting his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel, and preparing for a mission to the Gulf.

It was the first time the Conservatives had called for Mr Cook's resignation but Labour spin-doctors were satisfied the steam has run out of the Conservative drive to force the Foreign Secretary to go. A Tory MP said: "They did a good job. We couldn't keep it going."

Labour's tactics were carefully co-ordinated. The Prime Minister's words echoed those contract of up to five years.

yesterday's Evening Standard by Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, who linked the Tory attack on trips abroad by ministers and their partners, spending on flats, and Mr Cook's partner as "trivia". A party source said: "We could have left the chamber empty but the press would have said Robin Cook has no friends. This was a spontaneous demonstration of support for the Foreign Secretary." Mr Howard accessed Mr Cook of a "scandalous abuse of ministerial power by sacking Anne Bullen as his diary secretary. There were shouts at the sacked Derek Lewis (former prisons chief)". But Labour's counter-attack, led by Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office minister, centred on a letter by Douglas Hurd, former foreign secretary, showing he had replaced his own diary secretary after a few months "because things did not work out".

Mr Fatchett said the letter was written after civil-service trade-union members complained at Lord Hurd's appointment of Ms Bullen. He also claimed she was chosen because of a family Eton connection and she was a political appointment, not a career civil servant. She had been a personal assistant to the Earl of Limerick, a friend of Lord Hurd and contemporary at Eton. She had worked with a company which had close connections with the Foreign Office. Her appointment upset other civil servants because it bypassed rules requiring competition for posts and was on a

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## 'New Statesman' wage bill queried

master General, was yesterday called on to make a Commons statement on his links with the New Statesman magazine.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, said he had gone through the company's accounts and was baffled by the fact that the magazine's salaries were paid by a Robinson trust to the New Statesman, which passed the money to a former Robinson company, Stenbell,

which in turn paid the salaries. "The obvious thing to do," Mr Redwood said, "would be for Geoffrey Robinson to give the New Statesman the money, and

for them to pay the wages." Mr Redwood said he wanted to know whether Mr Robinson was maintaining influence, through his trust payments, over the editor of the New Statesman.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Pay- "It would be a matter of considerable public interest," he said, "and in the light of what the accounts tell us, we should be told more in Parliament about the relationship."

Ian Hargreaves, the magazine's editor, told The Independent last night: "I certainly do not feel myself subject to undue influence of any kind, and I do not note from what Mr Redwood says that he has any evidence of such influence.

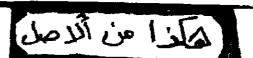
He added that the relationship between Stenbell and the magazine had been set up when Mr Robinson took it over, after it had gone to the wall, and the arrangements had persisted. "I know it would be nice for people to be able to conclude that it was all deeply evil," he said, "but Mr. Redwood is grasping at sinister straws to create a scandal."











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# Nuclear stockpile at Sellafield enough for 100,000 bombs

Britain is running grave risks in creating deadly plutonium without any credible long-term plans for dealing with it, the Royal Society says. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, examines the scientific society's report.

By 2010, enough plutonium will have accumulated at British Nuclear Fuel's (BNFL) Sellafield plant in Cumbria to nuclear non-proliferation world-wide when

says the "scoping study" published yesterday by the Royal Society, the nation's premiere scientific society.

The stock of this highly toxic, radioactive metal is set to double over the next 10 years to 100 tons. "We're disturbed at the present lack of strategic direction for dealing with plutonium," said Sir Ron Mason, a former chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Defence, who chaired the expert team. "What is the point of the British getting up in the United Nations and preaching the cause of make nearly 10,000 crude nuclear weapons. they are taking this risk at home?"

military, and it comes from reprocessing the spent nuclear fuel from Britain's nuclear power stations. The plutonium in this spent fuel is mixed with other highly radioactive materials, including uranium, and is completely unsuitable for use in nuclear weapons.

But after reprocessing, the separated plutonium becomes a much more tempting target for any terrorist. Sir Ronald said only about 10kg - a briefcase full - would suffice to make a crude fission bomb.

The Royal Society study accepts that the growing quantities of plutonium at Sellafield

The plutonium in question is civilian, not are carefully stored and guarded. None the less, "the stockpile can be viewed as a strategic and environmental risk, as well as an open-ended legacy for future generations".

The two greatest nuclear powers, the United States and Russia have agreed that their surplus military plutonium should be converted into a form that is extremely difficult to turn into nuclear weapons. Britain's stockpile does not conform to that standard.

The Royal Society report says the British government and its state-owned nuclear power industry have no credible, longterm plans for reducing the plutonium or

disposing of it in a completely safe manner. BNFL points out that it is merely storing the material on behalf of the companies hich own Britain's nuclear power stations.

It could be buried in a dump deep underground in stable rock formations. But government and industry have spent more than £400m trying to develop such a repository for intermediate level waste, only to have the idea scuppered last year by the then environment secretary, John Gummer.

BNFL has speut £300m at Sellafield building a new plant which combines small quantities of plutonium with urani-

um to make a fuel for nuclear power stations. But there is only one British power station in which it could conceivably be burnt, Sizewell B on the Suffolk coast.

The study group urges the Government to carry out a comprehensive review using independent experts to find the best options for dealing with the mounting stockpile. Yesterday the environment minister Michael Meacher said the Government would be looking at the issues, but the plutonium was very safely stored. "This is something we have to deal with, but we're under no emergency pressure."

## Brassed off: No, it is the 'new rock and roll'

The film Brossed Off and an injection of lottery cash have given a welcome boost to the traditional British brass band. As the first national development officer starts work in Yorkshire, Louise Jury reports on the boom.

The sight of Tara Fitzgerald blowing on her flugelhorn was enough to give Ewan Mc-Gregor renewed hornblowing vigour in Brassed Off, the surprise hit film of 1996.

Telling the story of a struggling colliery band and its eventual triumph against the odds in competition at the Royal Albert Hall, it has apparently prompted renewed interest in brass band music.

And the donation of more than £11m of lottery cash in the last three years has provided instruments for 261 brass bands, many of whom had been struggling to replace sponsorship lost with the closure of the collieries and factories where members

British Federation of Brass Bands, said the bands had never gone away, but many were now trying to encourage young people in with youth classes. The lottery cash enabled bands to buy new instruments and pass older ones on to young people who have fewer opportunities to learn to play at school.

Obviously the Brassed Off film helped to bring brass bands to the fore," he said.

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Norman Jones, general secretary of the Right note: A drive to encourage youngsters to join brass bands has been helped by a donation of more than £lim of lottery cash Photograph: Justin Slee/Guzelian

The Full Monty also featured Sheffield's Stockbridge Band.

The appointment of Peter Denton as full-time national development officer, should raise the profile of bands further.

"It's part of our heritage," Mr Jones said. There are about 600 bands registered

in Britain, compared with around 2,000 in the heyday of the late Fifties and Sixties. There are possibly as many bands again who meet simply to play together or for worship, such as with the Salvation Army.

An Arts Council spokeswoman said it had only become aware of the scale of in-

terest when the brass bands began applying for lottery money. As a result, the council decided to make the brass band federation one of its clients and give a £15,000 grant to fund the development officer.

Ray Clark, secretary of the National Association of Brass Band Conductors, said

bands were strongest in the North, Cornwall and Wales with a separate revival in Scottish schools. "After the war there was a tremendous build-up of bands but then it dropped off with guitars and pop groups. Now in quite a lot of places brass bands in any case. are coming back," he said.

# Open airbag theory in Diana crash

A prematurely opening airbag may have caused the accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, according to a new the ory which is under serious consideration by French investigators.

A doctor who studied the injuries suffered by the only survivor, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, believes that the airbags in the Mercedes were already partinflated before the car slammed head on into a pillar in an underpass in central Paris in August.

If so, the bags may have been triggered wrongly by an earlier impact, possibly a glancing collision with a slower car which crossed the Mercedes' path. This would help to explain why the driver, Henri Paul, lost control of the limousine and crashed at high speed into the central reservation

Police sources told the newspaper Le Parisiene that the chief investigator, Judge Hervé Stéphan was taking the theory seriously and had asked for new tests on the Mercedes and its airbags this week.

At the same time Paris police have asked for a copy of a video shot by Australian tourists outside the Ritz hotel just before Diana's party left on their fateful

The video shows a small white Citreon outside the hotel. Paris police say they have no reason to connect this car with the white Fiat, which forensic tests suggest may have impeded the Mercedes just before the crash. But they have asked to see the video

— John Lichfield, Paris



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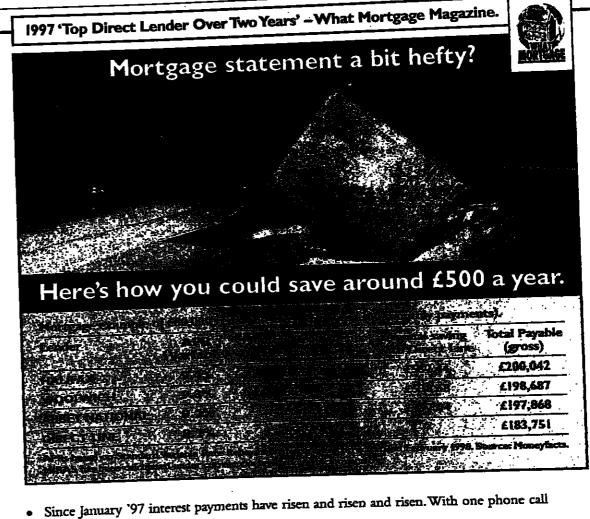
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The armed forces have gone on location to help raise their profile and boost recruitment. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, says they are appearing in everything from James Bond to pop videos.

Who said there was no glamour in life in forces? No sooner had the Navy finished filming Tomorrow Never Dies last May with Judi Dench and Pierce Brosnan than the army was off to help Oasis shoot a video. According to a list of engagements that

is published this week, it has all just been one long whiri. In all, the services have helped out on a total of 10 films and television series'

since May last year. There was a Scottish BBC drama, Invasion Earth, which took 22 airmen for three months plus a Chinook and a Puma

'helicopter for a day. And, as for Soldier, Soldier, they are in virtually every episode. Carlton Productions, makers of the popular television drama, have a Lynx helicopter and crew plus a Saxon troop car-

rier on long-term hire from the Army. The Scots and Welsh Guards, the Household Cavalry and 16 Air Defence Regiment have all been called on to help out at various stages.

Most were carried out at cost price. Yesterday the Ministry of Defence said its personnel were only too happy to win positive publicity and to contribute to the greater good.

Cost price, however, is not always cheap. Want to hire the frigate HMS Westminster? That will be just £2,000 an hour, Sir. Lynx helicopter? To you, £1,500 an

Soldiers, sailors and airmen come at varying rates, depending on their rank. While a private can be had for £121 a day on average, a sergeant might cost £190 and

#### PRIVATES ON PARADE

Private missions: some armed forces hirings since May 1997.

Early May: HMS Westminster finishes filming the latest James Bond movie, Tomorrow Never Dies. June: Two army Lynx helicopters help out

the pop group Oasis with a new video, "D'You Know What I Mean?" August-November: Twenty-two RAF personnel and a small number of land

vehicles help in a BBC Scotland drama series, Invasion Earth. On 17 September they are joined by a Chinook and a Puma helicopter.

3 December: A Hercules aircraft assists Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust In moving gorillas.

16 December: A Hercules helps to rescue the Virgin Global Challenger balloon envelope after it blows away and ends up in Algeria. A Lynx, its crew and a Saxon personnel carrier are hired for the filming of Soldier, Soldier.

Elements of the Scots and Welsh Guards. the Household Cavalry and 16 Air Defence Regiment have also been involved in the series.

a major £300. The men get up to a fascinating range of activities.

As well as appearing in videos including Oasis's post-holocaust "D'You Know What I Mean?", there was a vast range of other hirings.

In December, for example, the RAF lent a Puma belicopter to the BBC. helped the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust to move some gorillas and rescued Richard Branson's balloon from an airfield in Algeria.

The Army life is not all glitz and glamour, though. In January, for example, a Chinook helicopter was sent to Minehead to remove a tree which fell on a house during a storm.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that no profit was made from the arrangements, and most of them were done at cost

"We want to make sure that we are undertaking activities which promote the MoD and benefit the wider community. Also, it must not conflict with operational or training responsibilities.

"We are also mindful of the fact that we don't take business away from other companies. So we don't charge less than an actor would charge to play a soldier."

A major part of the list concerns exports, though, and it is this which will raise the hackles of anti-arms trade groups.

Companies such as Vickers, which exports to Turkey, and Alvis, which sends armoured vehicles to Indonesia, featured among those helped by the Royal Artillery Export Support Team, which went all over the world to assist British arms



Shooting stars: Actors in Soldier, Soldier, with air support courtesy of the armed forces

Photograph: Carlton TV

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## Priest raped me when I was nine, woman tells court

A woman recounted yesterday how a Roman Catholic priest allegedly sexually assaulted her while hearing her confession when she was a nine-year-old schoolgirl.

She said Fr John Lloyd raped and indecently assaulted her on numerous occasions as at lunchtime," she said. she sat on his lap in a darkened "It happened every time I

went to confession - once a week - over a period of about 18 months," she told Cardiff Crown Court. "I thought about telling my mother, but I was afraid. I thought I would be in trouble if I told her."

The woman, who cannot be named, was the first prosecution witness to give evidence at the trial of Fr Lloyd, 57. He denies sexual assaults on six children aged from eight to 13 over an 18-year period, while working as a parish priest in South Wales.

Fr Lloyd regularly visited her fessions of the children, who queued up outside a room partitioned off with black curtains. "We all went through one by one, about four of us went

She said the children would knock on the door and wait to be called in by Fr Lloyd, who sat in a chair. They knelt in front of him, made their confession and then received a penance of prayers to say. She said the priest sat her on

his lap and then put his hand inside her blouse and groped her private parts. Frequently he also penetrated her and had sexual intercourse, she added. "That happened many times to me, numerous times. I would

guess more than 20 times, she said. The woman wept as she

The woman explained that told the jury how after the assaults she would lock herself primary school to hear the con- in a school lavatory and try to clean herself up.

"I felt so dirty and ashamed," she added. She had not told anyone at the time. Fr Lloyd would just

tell her she was "special". "I didn't tell anyone what was happening. Initially, I thought it was affection, but then I realised and I became ashamed," the woman told the

The prosecution alleges that Fr Lloyd also indecently assaulted altar boys who seaved at his church.

Police investigations began in 1996 after one woman came forward to make allegations: against the priest 25 years later. Fr Lloyd, of St Joseph's, Penarth, near Cardiff, is cur-

rently on leave from his duties. The case continues.

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# Council to sell El Greco, Goya to stop budget cuts

The Royal Academy's latest exhibition is showing the public the treasure stores of the regional museums. But many collections are starved of funds, like that at Barnard Castle which Simon Toit says is

threatening to sell some of its finest works to keep the wolf from the door.

Durham County Council is threatening to sell art treasures from one of Britain's leading regional museums, inchiding paintings by El Greco, Goya, Turner and Canaletto, to stave off budget cuts.

The pictures, which could raise much more than the £5-£8m the council needs to find, could go for auction if the

Government does not step. The paintings usually adorn the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, but eight of its most im-

portant ones are on show in the Royal Academy's exhibition, "Art Treasures of England", partly mounted to highlight the plight of some regional collections. They include Goya's Don Juan Antonio Melendez Valdes and El Greco's Tears of St Peter - bought by the museum's founders in the last century for just £8.

Durham, whose arts, libraries and museums committee meets later today to decide whether to push recommendations through, are also proposing to close the Bowes for five months from November to save £35,000.

The museum was built by John and Josephine Bowes to house their collection and opened in 1892. Last year, it was designated as being of national importance by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, said: "The Bowes coilection is stuffed full of master works of one sort of another whose overall value to the mu-

seum runs into millions, but the and to Chris Smith, the Secrevalue to the nation is beyond price. It must be kept together ... and we will do whatever we can to help ensure that."

tary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, who has commissioned a review of museums funding which is due to report in the summer. Last autumn, the The threat to sell is a direct Government failed to honour an challenge to the Government

election pledge to abolish museum admission charges.

Patrick Conway, director of arts and museums for Durham said: "It is a very unpleasant decision we have to make, but year on year we have had to find cuts

which have included closing 24 libraries. "We have been talking to the Government about them taking national responsibility for the Bowes collection, as they have for collections in Type and Wear and Manchester and York.

They agree that the Bowes pictures are of international importance and deserve support but that if they provide funding something else would have to be cut so we have got nowhere." Income from the sale of

IHUKIDIN -

paintings would be used to create an endowment fund for the future upkeep of a museum. Mr Conway added: "I want to make it plain that this is a very, very last resort. I don't want to have to do it."



Fundraiser: El Greco's Tears of St Peter, now on show at the Royal Academy, is on the list of pictures from the Bowes collection that Durham council could sell

# Schools to teach creativity

Children should learn to be creative and artistic in schools, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education said yesterday.

He announced a new national committee on creativity just three weeks after the Government said it was cutting back the primary school curriculum to give more emphasis to the three Rs. History, geography, music. PE and art teachers have all protested that their subjects are in danger of being squeezed out of the timetable.

1.11.

Mr Blunkett told the Education, Culture and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels that the new national advisory committee would consider how schools could foster creativity.

The committee, which will be chaired by Professor Ken Robinson of Warwick University, includes Sir Simon Rattle, the conductor, Benjamin Zephaniah, the poet, Sir Harry Kroto, the Nobel prize winning scientist and Jude Kelly of the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Creative industries are worth around £50bn a year and generate around £10bn in

Mr Blunkett said: "Our top priorities must continue to be literacy and numeracy. Without these basic skills, no child can gain maximum benefit from the rest of the curriculum. However, in the workforce of the future, I have always recognised that creativity, adaptability and communication skills will also



Blunkett: Committee to

# Labour tells firms to recognise unions

Despite its public stance of keeping trade unionists at arm's length, the Government is forcing companies to recognise unions, confidential documents reveal. Barrie Clement,

Labour Editor, discovers that Old Labour lives on. Businesses hoping to run hos-

been told that they must recognise the unions. Even companies like IBM, which is determinedly non-union have been left in no doubt as to what is expected of

Department of Health officials have told union representatives that companies will have to abide by key standards over employee relations, including union recognition. A memorandum of a meeting last November in Whitehall says: "Individual [NHS] trusts

the standard would be unlikely to obtain approval of their siness cases." The policy on union recog-

nition has emerged in discussions to establish a privately financed hospital at Barnet, north London, run by a consortium which includes IBM. The computer giant, through its recently acquired subsidiary Data Sciences, will be running the hospital's information technology and medical records system.

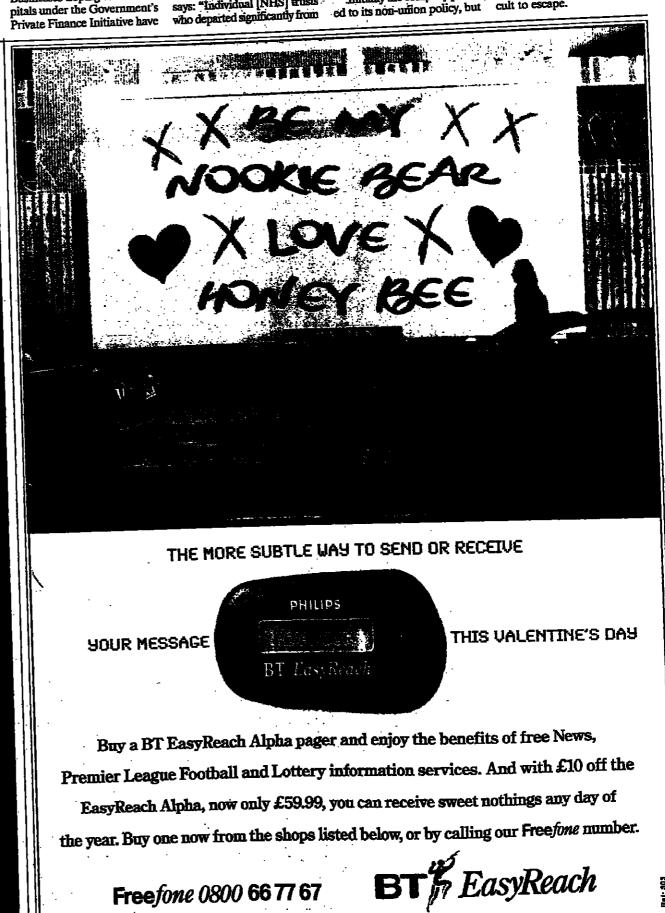
Initially the company pointed to its non-union policy, but

has been told to sign a deal with Unison, the public service union, by next Tuesday or risk losing its contract. In a letter to the union, Alan

Milburn, minister of health, said: "I can assure you that I take very seriously indeed the question of trade union recognition where staff transfer from the NHS to the private sector as part of the PFI deal."

The Department of Health's initiative will make the obligation to recognise unions difficult to escape.

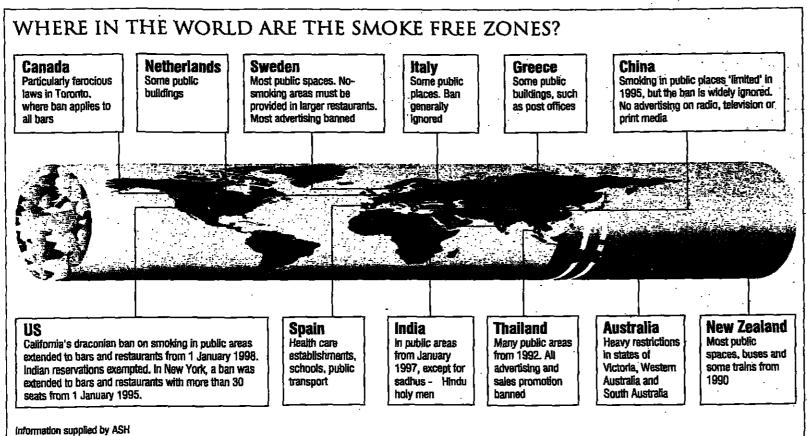




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# It's cool, it's cheap - but can Germany kick the habit?





I can't help it: Actress Mariene Dietrich in classic pose; almost 70 years on, a protection bill for non-smokers' in Germany may be stubbed out by MPs, most of whom smoke

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pick up in a German hospital. smoking before a recent operation re-emerged from the ward two weeks later with a cigarette smokers. in her mouth. "There was a vending machine on every floor, and a smoking lounge at the end of the corridor," she explained. "What was I to do?"

Despite the German obsession with health, cleanliness and the environment, there cannot be many other places on Earth where it is so difficult to kick the filthy habit. Germany is the last outpost of Mariboro country; the only place in the West, with the exception of are lit up today than 20 years

Fags are cool, cheap and available everywhere. No pubgoer should be seen without one. It is every German's in- arguing that a curtailment of cigalienable right to light up wher- arette consumption would hit ever he or she fancies.

But now all this may change. After 20 years of intense dissmoking from public buildings, work-places, trains, buses and aeroplanes. It has taken them four years to agree on the wording of the new "non-smokers' protection bill".

If the law is passed, employers, restaurants and pubs will have to set aside non-smoking zones. Offenders would be liable to a fine of 100 German marks, whilst companies which do not enforce the ban would

have to pay DM5,000. There is no question of hanging out verboten signs in German parks California-style. The Greens' timid suggestion to thin out the ubiquitous cigarette-machines, especially in the vicinity of schools, is heading for defeat.

Yet even this modest revo-

You never know what you may lution, agreed by the main parties of government and oppo-A friend who had given up sition, may well be stubbed out. MPs have a free vote, and most of them happen to be

The government, headed by pipe-smoking Helmut Kohl, is unswayed by the argument that non-smokers should be shielded by the law. As the health minister, Horst Seehofer, an occasional smoker, has declared: "Persuasion is better than a ban."

On the opposition benches, too, the "persuaders" rule the roost. Most Social Democrat leaders enjoy the odd puff. Gerhard Schröder, who repre-Portugal, where more cigarettes sents the greatest threat to Chancellor Kohl's re-election prospects, sports his giant cigar as an emblem of virility.

The tobacco lobby has conducted an energetic campaign, tax-payers.

Excise duties add up to more than DM20bn every year. The cussions, members of the Bun- tobacco companies have calcudestag will be called on to vote lated that, if every existing go up to two packets a day, the income would take care of Gamany's defence budget.

Lack of public commitment to health campaigns is one reason why many Germans do not seem to be worried about the risks of smoking. That and the burden of history.

As the tobacco industry's public relations people keep pointing out, Hitler was the last person to try cleansing Germany of the habit, and look where it got him. Even his girlfriend, Eva Braun, would sneak out of the the bunker for a quick drag in the dying days of the war, and then cover up her guilt by consuming copious amounts of mints. Adolf, apparently, never found out.

--- Imre Karacs, Bonn

CBS

#### Outside world chooses new flag for Bosnia

Bosnia's feuding Muslims, Croats and Serbs were unable to agree on a new flag for their divided country yesterday, so the outside world chose one for them. Carlos Westendorp, the International High Representative for Bosnia, stepped in after the internationally-imposed deadline expired for Bosnia's parliament to choose one of

three designs. Flags, number plates and coats of arms are the stuff of wars in Bosnia, where the three communities cling passionately to their national symbols - an eagle for the Scrbs, a fleur-de-lys for the Muslims and a chequerboard for the Croats. Mr Westerndorp's flag rides roughshod over the old icons of statehood; his design is a yellow triangle with a line of white stars on a blue background. "The triangle represents the three constituent peoples of Bosnia and the blue and the stars represent Europe," his spokesman said.

The flag will be used for the first time by the Bosnian team competing in the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, this weekend.

- Marcus Tanner

#### **US** military 'broke rules on low flying'

Italian government ministers visiting the mountain resort in the Dolomites where a cable-car was knocked down by a US military aircraft yesterday accused the US military of "a clear violation of the rules" in allowing one of its planes to fly perilously low to the ground in a tourist

Echoing the anger and grief felt by the people of Cavalese, where 20 people - including a 13-year-old boy - died in the ac-cident, the Italian Defence Minister, Beniamino Andreatta said there had been no excuse to runa low-flying training mission with a plane that is designed for radar-jamming operations from high altitude. Furthermore, be said, the aircraft had violated rules drawn up in 1955 that forbade planes to dip below 2,000 feet from the ground.

"To have to number and inspect body bags, and think that all this happened because the rules weren't followed is just terrible," Mr Andreatta said. The Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, echoed his sentiments, calling the accident the result of "tragic recklessness".

- Andrew Gumbel, Rome

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# Cook may give back passports to last colonies

Citizens of dependent territories - soon to be renamed. British

a keynote speech.

Overseas Territories could be given the right to live in the UK, the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said yesterday. From Abrams, Political Correspondent, followed

Robin Cook told a conference of the Dependent Territories Association in London that he understood the "sense of injustice" which people in the 13 states had felt when they lost the overseas development budget right of abode here in 1962.

Despite reports that ministers had ruled out citizenship, and further claims that there had been a ministerial spat over the issue, he said it was still being examined carefully.

"There are complex issues involved in deciding the best approach but we are looking at the matter sympathetically and urgently. We have not yet reached a decision," he said.

Mr Cook promised continuing help for Montserrat, which has been devastated by a volcano, and for the isolated island of St Helena, whose people had shown "great fortitude and determination in the face of adversity. In both cases we are determined to help," Mr Cook said, adding that he would next week become the first Foreign Secretary to visit a Caribbean dependen-

cy when he goes to Montserrat. Mr Cook was speaking as a Foreign and Commonwealth Office review of the dependent territories continued. He an-

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nounced that their name would be changed to British Overseas Territories.

Instead of being run partially by the Foreign Office and partly by the Department for International Development - a situation which added to confusion over the handling of the Montserrat crisis - there would be a separate department set up to run the territories, he said. It would be headed by the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons, who would become Minister for the Denendent Territories

However, despite arguments that to fund a relatively affluent group of territories from the was an anomaly, that arrangement would continue.

The new relationship would be based on self-determination, self government, Britain's Africa and Brazil is to be responsibilities to the territories and theirs to Britain and a commitment to help the diverse regions develop economically and assist them in emergencies.

Mr Cook said: "The Dependent Territories are a source of pride to Britain. We are proud because there is a family bond between the Dependent Territories and Britain that is unique, and matters to both

The remaining British dependent territories are Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena and dependencies, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the Turks

and Caicos Islands. Leading article, page 18

0800 769 0800

# Photograph: Rex Feautures

Another fine mess: Stanley, in the Falklands, one of the thirteen territories that will now be run from a new Foreign Office department Remote island home of spies and turtles opens its doors to tourists

A new holiday destination has arrived on the map: Ascension Island, formerly one of the Cold War's most secret and

remote outposts. This British-owned fly speck in the mid-Atlantic between opened for the first time to civilian flights, and the island is al-

ready gearing up for tourists. It is unlikely to be a mad rush. The cost of getting there will be high; and the number of available beds for visitors is tiny. Ascension, with a semi-permanent population of about 100, is one of the strangest places in the world, a James Bond island if ever there was one.

The island has a US Air Force base and it played a crucial role as a staging post in the Falklands War, But with the end of the Cold War it has started to become less useful. The super-secretive Central Signals Organisation, the overseas branch of GCHQ, runs a listening operation there.

Opening Ascension to civilian traffic has long been an aim of the island's enterprising Administrator, Roger Huxley. It will help prop up Ascension's microeconomy and also provide a vital new transport link for the 6,000 islanders of St Helena.

The island rises steeply out of the sea in the middle of

in the centre of the island is covered with dense vegetation.

nowhere. Formed by successive

volcanic eruptions, it is inter-

spersed with harsh fields of

volcanic rock. One common

description is "hell with the fires

turned off". But the main peak

mainly natural. It plays host to

from the Victorian forts to The island's attractions are satellite tracking systems.

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- Andrew Marshall

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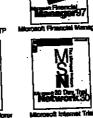
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The Blairs flew into a very different US last night than the one they might have anticipated visiting a week ago. There is every chance that the matter of the threatened war with Iraq will nudge President Clinton's sex life from the top of the news agenda. Mary Dejevsky in Washington asks whether the old rapport will be renewed.

When Tony and Cherie Blair arrived in Washington for the first full-dress new Democratnew Labour summit, the backroom organisers had much to be thankful for.

First, the summit was taking place as planned - and even a week ago, that could not have been predicted with any certainty. Secondly, Mr Blair would meet the President he had expected to meet, the President with whom he had so quickly established a personal and ideological rapport last year, the President who had deferred so graciously to his younger, newly elected host in London last June. Thirdly, the American media frenzy over the White House sex scandal had subsided enough for Americans to have at least half an eye out for something different. The visit would not be totally obscured, to put it delicately, by other matters.

Fourthly, the dispute with Iraq, which is portrayed in WashFace-off: Presidents Bill Clinton (top left) and Boris Yeltsin; and Iraqi vokunteer soldiers in Baghdad

perhaps at any time since the end of the Gulf War seven years ago. provides a near-ideal topic for today's British-US talks. There is enough difference in emphasis to afford a discussion and sufficient agreement to fuel a "strongly worded" joint statement. Moreover, the distance between the British-US position and that of many other countries, European countries included, permits both sides to revive talk of the "special relationship".

ship between Downing Street and wives are invited. and the White House since Mr This does not mean that the Blair was elected, the frequent visit is free of risk, either for Mr phone calls and the personal bonhomie between the first couples were hammered home

Blair or Mr Clinton. Britain is not as convinced as America that existing UN Security Council by British and US officials in adresolutions are sufficient legal vance of the visit, with both sides justification for a military strike stressing the unusual length (three full days) of the Blairs' stay and the session set aside for subject during a pre-summit in-Clintonite "policy-wonking" terview with US journalists free discussion of political ideas - at the presidential retreat of question. So is the degree to was presented in the framework

The close political relation- Camp David, to which advisers which Iraq should be given

hope of an end to sanctions. When the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, visited Washington last month, he appeared to defer to the view of France and some other European countries in saying that Iraq needed hope that, if it complied with UN resagainst Iraq. As Mr Blair's olutions, sanctions would be liftdodging of a question on this ed. Some US statements have taken a harsher stance. The distinction made by British offishowed, this is still a contentious cials between his visit, which

of Britain's presidency of the EU, and Mr Blair's visit, which is primarily bilateral in character, could pave the way for Mr Blair to articulate a harder British line on Iraq - at least for presentational purposes.

If Britain were seen to be too unconditionally in favour of US action, this could impair its continuing efforts at the UN to mobilise support for the US position.

Public unity on Iraq, however, along with broad agreement on such topics as Nato expansion, a continued international presence in Bosnia, and US backing for the Irish peace talks, is unlikely to divert the American media's attention from the Clinton sex scandal. Small matter that the Blairs, the very model of "family values", are the ideal White House guests at this point.

The US media anticipates with some excitement the joint leaders' press conference. Scheduled for tomorrow morning, to catch peak evening television viewing in Britain, it will be the first time Mr Clinton has answered reporters' questions since his first, hesitant denials of the alleged Lewinsky affair.

It is unlikely that there will be no questions on this subject. The risk for Mr Blair is either that he is sidelined, as was Yasser Arafat, whose Washington press conference two weeks ago coincided with the start of the scandal, or that "family values" questions will also be directed to him, perhaps with reference to his Foreign Secretary, and that the substance of the summit will be obscured. At least, if Mr Blair finds himself facing sex questions, he has had ample time to prepare his riposte.

## Apocalyptic vision expresses Russia's mood of resentment

**Boris Yeltsin lashed** out at American preparations for war in the Guif yesterday. Later he spoke by telephone to Tony Blair. Anthony Bevins and Phil Reeves report.

Boris Yeltsin hammered another nail yesterday into his reputation for rough-hewn and impulsive diplomacy by warning that Bill Clinton could provoke a world war if he mishandles the Iraq crisis. and chastising him for being "too noisy" in his overall approach.

Apparently ad-libbing during one of his regular cameo television performances, the Russian leader stressed the need to make Mr Clinton feel the perils of his actions. "One must be more careful in this world, [which is] saturated with all sorts of weapons which are sometimes in terrorists' hands." It was "all very dangerous", he grumbled, and "not like Clinton at all."

Later in the day, Tony Blair made a 10-minute phone call to the Russian president in which they agreed on the need to bring the Iraqi leader to heel on UN arms curbs. The call had been arranged before Mr Yeltsin spoke; but it was clearly aimed at keeping the President informed of United States-British intentions.

During the conversation, the Prime Minister maintained his tough line that in the face of continuing de- world stage.

fiance from Baghdad, while Mr Yeltsin - who also yesterday spoke by telephone to the French President, Jacques Chirac - continued to press for a diplomatic solution still being sought by the United Nations.

Mr Blair's spokesman said he and President Yeltsin agreed on the seriousness of the situation, and agreed that all diplomatic channels should be exploited to bring Saddam back into line. But Mr Blair said that in the event of failure, the threat was real and force would be used

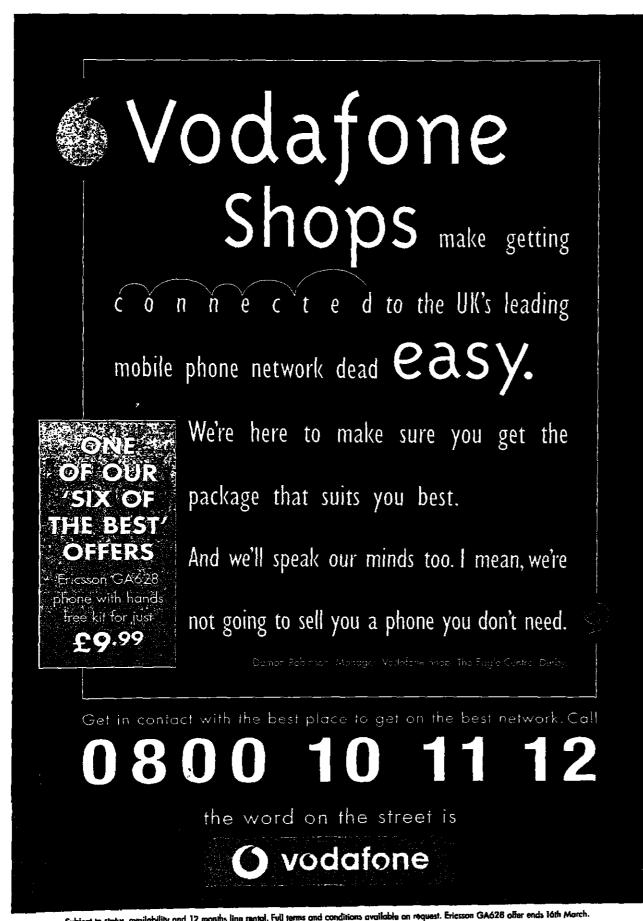
if necessary. It is the fear that this might happen which sparked Mr Yeltsin's comments. Although his spontaneous remarks have caused havoc among his officials in the past, his latest utterances belong in a different category.

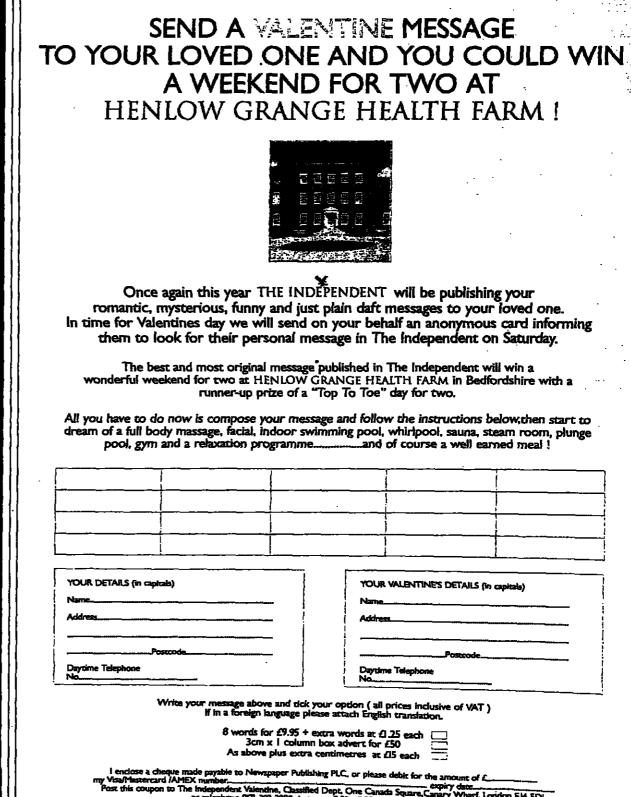
Though emotive, they were in line with Kremlin policy which has consistently opposed military force as a means of compelling lraq to open up sites to UN weapons inspectors.

They were also in tune with the mood in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, which is simmering with resentment and suspicion about the US role in the crisis.

"Yeltsin is clearly aware of the mood," said one Western source. "He is reacting to it emotionally, but without a shift in policy."

The President is clearly keen to serve a reminder that, despite its post-Soviet decline, Russia still has an inforce could not be ruled out fluential role to play on the





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# 13/IRAQ CRISIS مكذا من ألاصل

# as fresh claims emerge of chemical and germ weapons



War footing: Israeli soldiers training yesterday, equipped for possible chemical and biological-weapon attacks should a conflict break out

# Blair warning of Saddam's Armageddon armoury

biological weapons, Britain said yesterday, as Robin Cook last for meetings with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"Iraq has built up an appalling stock of weapons," he said. "We must be certain that they are totally eradicated and cannot be rebuilt." In Commons exchanges with William Hague - who backed the Government - Tony Blair said there was evidence the Iraqis had lied and tried to deceive the world about their weapons of mass destruction. "This isn't a test of international virility or machismo. It is a genuine desire to make sure we enforce the conditions necessary for peace. If we don't stop him doing this, there is every possibility he will develop these weapons of mass destruction and ... use them."

The Foreign Office gave MPs a briefing document on the Iraqi armoury, based on the latest work by the UN Special Commission (Unscom), responsible for overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons. The paper showed Iraq might still have at least two Scud-type missiles with chemical and biological warheads.

Unscom inspectors also failed to account

Iraq still has a vast armoury of chemical and for 600 tonnes of VX nerve-agent precursors which could be used to produce 200 tonnes of the agent, enough to wipe out the world's population. In addition, the Iraqi chemical-weapons programme, which Foreign Office sources said was operating on "an enormous scale" before the last Gulf conflict, was not fully accounted for: 4,000 tonnes of precursors used in the production of the weapons have not been found or destroyed. Most alarmingly, the inspectors have not been able to find an estimated 17 tonnes of growth media used for biological warfare agents, enough to produce 25,000 tonnes of anthrax.

Foreign Office sources said a relatively small amount of anthrax released from the top of a tall building could wipe out the population of a large city.

They said the work of the Unscom inspectors had been hampered by "constant Iraqi deceit, concealment, harassment and downright obstruction".

Nevertheless, they admitted they had no positive evidence that the Iraqis were currently engaged in any production of chemical or biological weapons at specific sites. \_\_ lan Burrell

Despite some signs of compromise from Iraq, the momentum is building towards war in the Gulf. Patrick Cockburn analyses the rationales of both

Diplomatic efforts to avert a renewal of the Gulf war reached a critical point yesterday, with Iraq showing itself willing for the first time to allow the inspection of eight of President Saddam Hussein's palaces. In Wasbington, planners are focusing on 17 February as the best date to launch an air offensive against the Iraqi government.

The argument for that date appears to have less to do with having enough aircraft and missiles in position than the need for the US and Britain to be seen to have exhausted diplomatic means to resolve the crisis over the inspection of Iraq's non-conventional weapons. The US has already said the assault will be sustained and will target chemical and biological-weapons facilities, command-and-control centres and special Republican Guard units.

In Iraq, there are signs President Saddam may want to compromise over access

to eight of his palaces. Baghdad has pro- his enemies will ask if sustained bombing posed that each of the 15 members of the could lead to his overthrow. Laith Kubba, UN Security Council would appoint five in- an Iraqi intellectual, says: "They have a spectors; the 21 countries represented on the UN Special Commission (Unscom). which oversees the weapons inspections, would then each appoint two more. They would be allowed to bring what equipment they wanted and could inspect each palace for a month.

The US and Britain will be suspicious of this offer on grounds that it seeks to marginalise Unscom, which they are demanding should have unfettered access. There are signs both sides are behaving cautiously. Brent Scowcroft, US national security adviser during the Gulf war, said he was doubtful if even a big air strike would persuade the Iraqi leader to allow inspections: "We bombed him heavily, more heavily than we can now, for 30 days before the start of the war and he didn't change his ideas about anything." More visceral advice came from Trent Lott, US Senate Majority Leader: "Take out the palace guard - take out the palaces. Take out every target and hope that you can put one missile down at an event or a building where Saddam Hussein is."

The US and Britain have denied they intend bringing down the Iraqi leader, but

slight chance to break the grip of the regime on the army. But ... I don't think they will do it. Their objective is to see Saddam comply with UN resolutions, not destroy him. Also, they would like to see the army as the backbone of any change in Iraq."

In November last year President Saddam compromised at the last moment and readmitted US inspectors; he might do so again. His aim would be to weary the US and its allies by repeated crises. Mr Kubba says Iraq. in contrast with its behaviour, accepted the new oil-for-food plan of Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, more than doubling oil exports to \$5.2bn every six months. He concludes: "The signals are Iraq wants to defuse, not escalate the crisis."

Precedents are mixed. In 1996 President Saddam sent tanks into the Kurdish capital, Arbil, at the invitation of one of the Kurdish factions. He withdrew swiftly and suffered a few missiles fired into southern Iraq. In November last year he was again careful about how far he would defy the UN. But, as his refusal to withdraw from Kuwait in 1990 showed, he is also a macho politician, and 17 February is 12 days away.

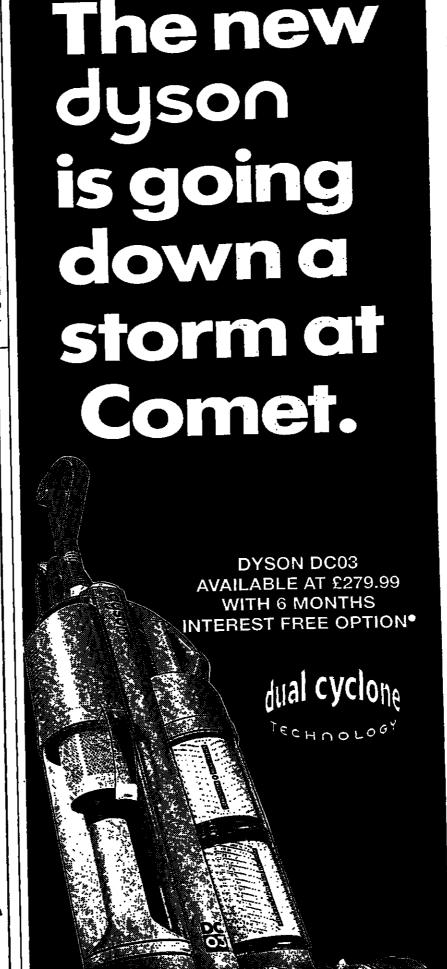
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# Tanks and soft words in Sri Lanka

terday with the most downbeat speech imaginable, President Chandrika Kumaratunga said, "We have failed ... to build a strong watched in horror whilst a great nation ... veered into a terrifying era of ethnic, political and social violence."

There was, she insisted, only one more chance to get it right. "We have missed many chances. We cannot ... miss this one last moment, rich with opportunity."

But these words were followed by a relentless display of military muscle. As well as tanks, ex-Israeli attack jets and Antonov transport planes, some 4,000 men and women in uniform were on display.

This dual approach, speaking softly but carrying a big stick, has marked out Mrs Kumaratunga's period in office. Her words to the disaffected Tamil minority, some 3 million out of a total population of 18 million, has been unprecedentedly conciliatory. But meanwhile she has prosecuted the If the claims of both sides are to be believed, more than 600 soldiers have died around ceded it. Kilinochchi in the far north in the past week.

The subtext of Mrs Kumaratunga's brave but gloomy words is that she came to power on a programme of constitutional reform including a promise to devolve power to the regions "as a political solution to the ethnic problem". But her plans have been thwarted by the (Sinhalese) opposition, so she plans to put her proposals to the nation in a referendum.

Yesterday's celebration was as subdued as the tone of the president's speech. Res-

Celebrating Sri Lanka's Golden Jubilee yes- idents of Colombo grumbled that Mrs Kumaratunga was celebrating Sri Lanka's independence by putting the population of the capital under house arrest. All roads in and united nation. The silent majority the city were closed to private traffic, and anyone venturing out of doors was subject to endless checks and searches.

Public buildings were strung with coloured lights, yet the city might have been abandoned after a plague for all the life there was. The Golden Jubilee celebration had been switched to the lakeside parliamentary complex following the suicide bomb blast that damaged Kandy's most important temple, the intended site, 10 days ago. Only ministers, the diplomatic community and the media were allowed to witness it; a few hundred citizens watched behind railings a quarter of a mile away.

Prince Charles, the guest of honour, donned sunglasses and buried himself in a book as the president's speech was declaimed in three languages. In muggy heat, amidst sterile modern surroundings, the pawar in the north with fierce determination. rade of floats and dancers seemed almost as dutiful as the military display that pre-

> The scale of Mrs Kumaratunga's difficulties became clear when moderate Tamil parties in parliament, including the Tamil United Liberation Front, boycotted the celebration, despite her conciliatory statement that "since 1948 the Tamil population has been discriminated against," and that there was therefore nothing to celebrate.

> Meanwhile, the celebration at Batticaloa on the east coast was broken up by a Tamil Tiger attack. At least 20 people were injured. --- Peter Popham, Colombo

When Miss Universe 1996, Alicia Macha-scribed her as "an eating machine" but en-

beloved two-tiered hamburgers, large or-ders of chips and strawberry milk shakes to fight her weight problem behind bars.

Ms Machado, 21 and a popular soap ders of chips and strawberry milk shakes after months of pre-pageant fasting.

She wasted no time in living the dream no longer fit into the dresses traditionally considered appropriate and there were calls to take back her crown. With a little

do, was asked about her plans, hopes and couraged her to work out in a New York ligion the case is being followed with more dreams, she was smart enough to keep the gym - she survived that hullabaloo. Now true answer to herself: to tuck into her she faces a new crisis which could force her

opera star, has been accused of driving the getaway car in an alleged Bonnie and until she put on two-and-a-half stone, could Clyde-style attempted murder and babysnatching in her native Venezuela. Her boyfriend, Juan Rodriguez, is accused of Mr Shert for driving her to suicide. shooting his dead sister's husband, Franhelp from friends such as Miss Universe cisco Sbert, and trying to kidnap the cou-memorial service for Maria Clementina, pageant backer Donald Trump - who de- ple's 11-month-old baby son. In a nation Mr Rodriguez allegedly pulled a gun, shot

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According to the accusation in the private criminal case, a feud between two of Venezuela's most powerful families erupted over custody of the boy last November after Rodriguez's sister, Maria Clementina, killed herself. The Rodriguez family, with longtime political connections, blamed

Outside a Caracas church, after a

boy and sped off in a car driven, according to witnesses, by Ms Machado.

When questioned by reporters, the former beauty queen appeared to imply she had been at the scene. When called before a criminal court judge last week, however, Ms Machado said she had been at home sick at the time. A judge is deciding this week whether Mr Sberts' lawyers and witnesses have produced enough evidence for a prosecution.

— Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent Mirlin

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Miss Universe's dream turns into a soap opera nightmare

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## Fears over ceasefire as Armenian president quits

A pulse of alarm swept outwards from the Trans-Caucasus through Moscow and Washington yesterday as the contours became clear of the political crisis in Armenia. The resignation of Presi-

dent Levon Ter-Petrossian was widely viewed as a triumph for nationalists who oppose compromise in the settlement over Nagorny-Karabakh - the issue that led to a war with Azerbaijan in which 25,000 died. The tension was such in the region yesterday that his Azeri counterpart, Haidar Aliyev, called an emergency meeting of his Sepledged to uphold the ceasefire which has held for more than

three years. The departure of Mr Ter-Petτοssian, a 53-year-old former academic, marks the end of a presidency in which he squandered his early reputation for being a democrat by clamping every other country (except

Ter-Petrossian: Russian ties

down on his opponents. His reelection in 1996 was marred by curity Council. Afterwards he allegations of vote-rigging. He presided over a period in which the nation of 3.5 million people nose-dived economically and watched in alarm as the United States, once an ardent supporter, was drawn by Caspian oil to woo neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Washington was not alone;

Armenia) in the region stands to benefit directly from the oil. Fearful of isolation, Armemia found itself reforbishing its traditional ties with Moscow and Iran, the chief source of its consumer goods. Yesterday Boris Yeltsin underscored the relationship: "We must must not: and shall not, lose Armenia," he said after expressing regret at

the president's departure. But the unsettled issue of Nagorny-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave of ethnic Armenians which Stalin placed in Azerbaijan, overarched everything. Mediation attempts by the Minsk Group of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe - chaired by France, Russia and the US - have so far failed to resolve the key issues, which include a demand by Azerbaijan for the return of a large swathe of Azeri territory seized during the war.

- Phil Reeves, Moscow



Reviewing London's most fashionable restaurant, the Pharmacy, for the Evening Standard, author Sebastian Faulks was reminded by the har stends of the fact that Aristotle Onassis had stools on his yacht upholstered with whale foreskin. He didn't know what Damien Hirst has his covered his with. "I didn't ask, he confessed. I can tell him. Scottish wool woven on an island in the Clyde estuary.

"There's no comparison," says Jasper Morrison, the

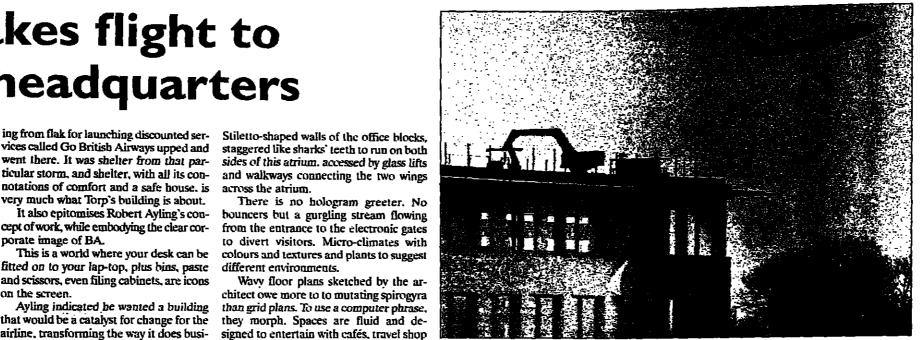


Sitting pretty: Bute upholstery at the London restaurants Pharmacy and Lawn Terrace Photographs: Richard Learnyd

star of international fairs from show why muted woollen Cologne to Milan and designer of the Pharmacy's elegant upholstered dining chair, for neutral naturals and 

Bauhaus primaries, Jasper loathes the bobbly, shiny, crinkly velours with polka dots - "like car seat materials" - that most contract furniture fabric houses supply. He visited Bute Fabrics last summer with some of Europe's best known designers - Matthew Hilton, Andrew Stafford, Terence Woodgate and Tom Dixon. Sheridan Coakley, who makes their designs into streamlined modern furniture, plans to launch a collection at Milan in April using Bute weaves.

A little cottage industry started by the 6th Marquess of Bute after the Second World War, the company has now become a player in the international furnishing fabrics market. Travellers will spot the warm woollen weaves in airports from Brussels to Kuala Lumpur. And Sir Norman Foster ordered 10km of Bute woollens for his new airport, Chek Lap Kok in Hong Kong. - Nonie Niesewand



Taking off: British Airways' new headquarters at Hammersmith in west London, which opens officially in May. The six horseshoe-shaped blocks are named after the continents and have micro-climates represent different environments Photographs: Tom Pilston

#### THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

# £10 Conran lunch

The independent and independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delignted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £i0

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £i0 per person.

#### How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.





Mezzo







Blue Print Café THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT alid between Saturday January 31st and Friday February 6th

This voocher entities the holder and all members of their booking to participate in The Independent/Conran Restaurants (ID lunch offer

The Independent offer is available at the following restaurants:

Bluebird 350 King's Road. London, SW3 5UU 0171 559 1000 Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SEI 0171 378 7031 Lunch (2noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm)

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SEI 2YE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm

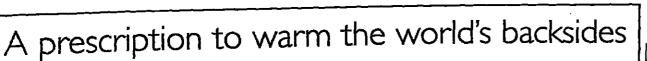
Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

closed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6AL

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 71F The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until : i.pm

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants Closed from 6pm on Sunday Offer not available after 6pm on February 14



Airline takes flight to

British Airways has spent £200m

controversial change of its tail-fin

logo, the structure by Norwegian

architect Niels Torp represents

revamp of the airline's corporate

British Airways' new HQ for 3,000 em-

plovees is the size of a small town, but on

a site as big as Regent's Park. The build-

ing which looms lightly and whitely out of

the sulphuric suburbs in the slipstream of

Heathrow Airport is so large at 5,300 square

metres that BA call the six horse-shoe-

shaped office blocks after continents. Cherry trees blossom in the courtyard of

ican hardwood sapling take root outside the

Americas and birch saplings signpost the

European section. Each are themed for dif-

building worth it? It has been designed by

Niels Torp at a time when BA has tried to

reinvent itself from being a sober-suited.

navy-and-grey airline flying the flag to a

tunky, global, get-together. Robert Ayling,

chief executive, describes the change as a

move away from a rather arrogant and self

important image". The airline's new iden-

tity is British but modern. Global but caring.

on a tail fin - only 80 of the 300 fleet have

the dramatic Kalahari desert daubs or cal-

ligraphic swirls from around the world that

Newell & Sorrell chose for the new livery

- but nearly impossible to set in concrete.

Yet Torp has managed it. Six limestone-clad

buildings angled like cliff faces around a

glacial glazed core make working more

The building should have been ready in

in May. The management, however, reel-

It's difficult to convey all that emotion

So now that it has landed, was the

ferent BA destinations.

the Orient, eucalyptus in Australia, Amer-

not just a new way of working

for3,000 staff but part of the

identity for the 21st century.

on a new headquarters in west

London. Following the

new-age headquarters

porate image of BA.

on the screen.

vices called Go British Airways upped and

went there. It was shelter from that par-

ticular storm, and shelter, with all its con-

notations of comfort and a safe house, is

It also epitomises Robert Ayling's con-

This is a world where your desk can be

Ayling indicated be wanted a building

very much what Torp's building is about.

cept of work, while embodying the clear cor-

fitted on to your lap-top, plus bins, paste

and scissors, even filing cabinets, are icons

that would be a catalyst for change for the

airline, transforming the way it does busi-

ness. He wanted to ensure a better flow of

information and better ways of exchanging

BY NONIE

**NIESEWAND** 

ideas between people in a less formal

environment. Staff have undergone a train-

ing for new ways of working, which included

hi-tech document management, aimed at

terminuses by anyone with the password. was invented by the airline industry at

check-ins. It frees floorspace from clunky

power-dressed contract furniture. BA of-

fices are open plan-ish, with half-partitions

that never block the view. Even Ayling does

175-metre atrium that connects these of-

fices, the sky is beamed down, uninterrupted

by girders or even the walkways between

Torp sees big buildings as a town, "A

A sandstone broadwalk, 175 metres long.

as big as three Jumbos nose to fin, is set

floors which are made of glass.

a small town," he believes.

December but it is now due to be opened about with trees, pavement cafés, news-

not have an office. Throughout the entire and ways of working in groups and inter-

town is like a big house and a house is like flag with a flash marque. They introduced

agents, florists, cash machines, restaurants. goals for the airline for the 21st century.

global attitudes."

Hot-desking, that fast-lane accessing of

minimising the use of paper.

across the atrium.

different environments.

and somewhere to sit - the ideas Torp pi-

oneered in 1980 at the SAS offices in Stock-

holm. Cited by Frank Duffy, architect and

author of The New Office, as one of nine

blueprints of the future, it influenced the

BA judges' decision to award him the

airport carousels and slinky curvaceous

benches in pearwood, American oak or maple create little oases around the BA

complex. Designed by Torp, they are more

attractive than those ergonomic stools for

bad backs for which Norway is known on

June 1993, calls it a Utopian concept.

"Throughout we have worked with the

graphic designers Newell & Sorrell and

British Airways in a common effort to share

ideas, break down barriers and have re-

spects for cultures and human beings.

This building is a tribute to human beings

action, both when it comes to work and

So Newell & Sorrell didn't unceremo-

niously dump the client's quaint but irrel-

evant trademark when they replaced the

a new attitude. A lighter touch with more

dynamism that wraps around the world.

More than a typographic or geometric so-

lution, the creative team have established

Ervin Nisslan, the project director since

the international chair fair circuit.

Ribbed phywood furniture shaped like

contract after a competition in 1989.



British furniture designer, holds up fabric swatches to weaves from Bute are best.

As a minimalist with an eve

111

# **Nicholas** Saunders

Nicholas Carr-Saunders, writer and businessman: born Water Eaton, Oxfordshire 25 January 1938; (one son by Britt Nitze); died Kroonstadt, South Africa 3 February 1998.

Nicholas Saunders was a pioneer of the wholefood movement and the man behind the development of Neal's Yard in Covent Garden (people who came up to him there often addressed him as Neal). In the Seventies he was the author of Alternative London, a guide to alternative living, and in the Nineties of E for Ecstasy, a study of the new drug culture. Saunders was always conscious of a trend.

He was born in 1938, at Water Eaton Manor near Oxford, a youngest son, born late in life to his academic parents. His father, Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, was from 1937 to 1956 Director of the London School of Economics.

Nicholas was educated at Ampleforth College, in Yorkshire, and completed two years at Imperial College, London, before leaving without a degree. He disliked authority and preferred to study the subjects he was interested in. From early childhood he had a curious mind; he was anxious to find out how things worked and how they

could be changed or improved. He was fascinated with the breaking up of the conventional life-style in the Sixties. He constructed a flat in Edith Grove, west London, so that

swim under a plate-glass window and into his living room. and he slept in a papier-mâché "cave". The flat became a centre for hippies and anyone with new alternative ideas. These he began to record and the first edition of Alternative London was brought out in 1970. It became an immediate best-seller. Further editions followed until a friend meditating in front of a candle inadvertently burnt the flat down. Saunders was ready to take up a new interest.

He had private means and in

1976 had fallen in love with and bought a warehouse in Neal's Yard, then let as a store for theatrical scenery. The end of its lease coincided with the closing of the old fruit market and the start of the new Covent Garden. Saunders knew many young people who had skills and wanted to work for themselves, and didn't have financial backing to do this. He enjoyed either starting himself or enabling others to run new ventures; and these were often soon copied elsewhere. Though always a firm buyer of ready-cooked meals from Marks and Spencer for himself, he welcomed the new demand for wholefood and by packing it in large quantities made it available at a more reasonable price.

Gradually he bought up other buildings in the yard, where he helped to finance a cooperative bakery, dairy, flour mill, apothecary and café. He planted trees in tubs, covered the buildings with window boxes so that a profusion of flowducks in the pond outside could ers trailed down the walls and



Alternative London: Saunders at Neal's Yard, Covent Garden, where he first opened a wholefood shop in 1976

imported white doves who fluttered overhead. In fine weather the yard was crowded with office workers, tourists and regulars eating their lunch.

The wholefood shop was sold in the mid-Eighties, whereupon, hearing about the many and a small restaurant were practitioners of alternative medicines who had nowhere to practise, Saunders decided to open therapy rooms they could hire. His intention was for each practitioner's c.v. to be available to potential patients. Two buildings at one end of the yard were rebuilt and there, having been regular visits from Denmark.

excited early on by the potential of computers, Saunders started the first Desk Top Publishing Studio, where people could hire computers by the hour and be given professional help. A "self-fulfilment agency"

housed in the same building. On the top floors he designed an imaginative rooftop garden and a flat where he slept in a suspended egg and arranged a padded ledge for guests. Here his son, Kristoffer, of whom he was immensely proud, slept on his

ing the drug culture and particularly Ecstasy, which he realised had become a way of life among many young people. The result was his book E for Ecstasy, published in 1993, followed by Ecstasy and the Dance Culture (1995) and Ecstasy Reconsidered

drugs and spirituality. Saunders believed that it was now impossible to ban drugs altogether, it was better that they should be used sensi-

(1996). When he died he was

working on another book, about

Nicholas Saunders spent the bly. He particularly disliked the last years of his life investigat- sensational and inaccurate newspaper coverage of the subject, and regretted that politicians of all parties were unable to discuss the problem seriously.

With his partner, Anya Dashwood, with whom he had found complete happiness during the last few years, Saunders travelled all over the world gathering information for his new book. It was on the only trip that she did not accompany him that he met his death in a car accident in South Africa.

Flora Maxwell Stuart

## Alexander Haraszti

Sandor Ritter (Alexander Haraszti), pastor and physician: born Soltvadkert, Hungary 2 March 1920; married 1943 Rosalie Ban (two sons, three daughters, and one son deceased); died Atlanta, Georgia 16 January

Alexander Haraszti was the architect of Billy Graham's Eastern European visits in the 1970s and 1980s. Without his formidable powers of persuasion, charm, persistence, guile and chutzpah it is doubtful whether the American evangelist could have added the Communist world to his destinations.

Multilingual, a pastor and doctor as well as a negotiator, Haraszti had the vision of creating out of Graham an evangelist to the world. To achieve this goal, he persuaded speak out about persecution of Christians in the Communist

in linguistics and was ordained a Baptist minister in Budapest pastor to support himself while he and his wife completed medical studies at Semmelweis University in Budapest, where he practised medicine as well as teaching at the Baptist seminary. During the Hungarian up-

rising against Soviet domination in 1956, Haraszti fled to Vienna with his family, and then to the United States. He later persecution there. claimed he had left Hungary not for political motives but to be able to work in Africa as a medical missionary. He trained by the time he and his wife Albert Schweitzer came to nothing, although he did nin, Haraszti would not have leagues saw him as having stum- now Haraszti had American ectomy a few minutes early bled on the road to a knighthood, citizenship. He and his wife then, leaving his juniors to opened a medical practice in Atlanta and he became a sur- airport to catch a flight to gical resident at three Atlanta

> As a pastor in the early 1950s in Budapest, Haraszti had translated Billy Graham's book Peace With God (1953). without ever guessing he might one day be working closely with the evangelist. Their first

hospitals.

encounter took place in 1972, when Haraszti and two Hungarian pastors were invited to meet Graham during a crusade in Cleveland.

All were keen on a crusade in Hungary, despite the obvious difficulties. Haraszti was despatched to Budapest to tackle the Communist authorities. The head of the State Office for Religious Affairs, Intre Miklos, needed some persuading, identifying Graham as a "burning anti-Communist". Haraszti was well versed in negotiating with Communist officials from his earlier days in Hungary, although this time it took five years to achieve his goal.

The limited success of Billy numerous other preaching Graham's 1977 Hungarian crusade - during which Haraszti also served as his translator fired Haraszti's ambition to turn Graham into the evangelist of Eastern Europe. Thanks to Haraszti's efforts, crusades to Poland, East Germany, Czecho-Graham to soft-pedal his anti-slovakia and the Soviet Union Communism and agree not to eventually took place. Most were controversial

Graham was widely quoted as denying religious persec-Haraszti gained a doctorate ution in the countries he visited, the price he was prepared to pay for the visits to in 1944. He then worked as a go ahead. On his first visit to Hungary, Graham ignored the bulldozing of a Methodist church in Budapest. Graham's 1985 visit to Ceausescu's Romania, for which Haraszti had worked since 1978, was perhaps the most controversial. despite the large numbers of people who came to hear the evangelist. Graham remained silent on political and religious

Haraszti was a master of backroom negotiation. Energetic and self-confident, he had no trouble switching from with the Southern Baptists, but doctor to pastor to political troubleshooter. When Graham completed the training they succeeded in gaining a were deemed too old and a meeting at short notice with subsequent invitation to join the Soviet ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Dobrybriefly work in Ghana, Tanza- dreamt of missing out. He nia and the Gaza Strip. By began a scheduled hysternnish the job, dashed to Washington.

In the car to the embassy. Graham told the Pepsi chief executive Don Kendall that Haraszti knew more about Eastern Europe than Henry Kissinger. For Alexander Haraszti, it wasa day to savour.

- Felix Corley

#### John Robinson



Robinson: abrasive

John Armstrong Robinson, diplomat: born London 18 December 1925; Head of European Economic Integration Department. Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1968-70, Assistant Under-Secretary of State 1971-73; CMG 1969;

77, to Israel 1980-81; Minister, Washington 1977-80; married 1952 Marianne Berger (one son, one daughter); died 16 January 1998.

John Robinson was an unusually independent diplomat. He worked single-mindedly on successive negotiations to join the

mastery of the complex issues. friends by becoming a diplomat. But he remained wryly aloof from the smooth niceties of diplomacy, impatient of flattery and

colleagues as well as opponents. became a King's Scholar at Quai d'Orsay. His opportunity showed an excellent mind and third and successful attempt to a debunking streak, in a school- join the Community: Robinson boy trio who called themselves worked tirelessly with Heath Les Trois Cyniques. In the post- and Sir Con O'Neill, his senior war RAF, where he remained an in the Foreign Office, who aircraftman, he worked with shared his abrasive approach. Italian prisoners of war who Heath would always pay tribute

European Community, with a read Greats and surprised many

After serving in Delhi and Helsinki he became deeply involved with the European Comnodest senior civil servant, he ishing confrontations with the taught him Italian. At Oxford he to Robinson's European knowl-

edge and attention to detail. become a market gardener in which contributed greatly to France, where he had already Britain's eventual entry in 1973.

The Foreign Office rewarded him doubtfully, with tricky extravagance, and held strong munity, in Paris, Brussels and and thankless assignments; first views which he made clear to London. He was committed to as ambassador to Algiers, just Britain's entry, while suspicious after Opec's show of strength; The son of a successful but of Gaullist attitudes and rel- then to Washington as Minister under the controversial new ambassador Peter Jay, whom Westminster School, where he came when Ted Heath made the they wanted to put in his place. by the pomposity and dressing-It was a silly mis-match, which Robinson could not enjoy.

After a spell at the UN, specialising in Palestinian problems, he was surprisingly made ambassador to Israel, where he was regarded with suspicion. After of post-war Britain. that he took early retirement to

bought land. He later retired to Switzerland for neurological treatment, selflessly cared for by his Swiss wife, Marianne. His more conventional col-

In fact he turned down a senior ambassadorship and was bored up of the grander European embassies. He was always his own man, with a rare fearlessness and probity, and he had been indispensable to the most important diplomatic achievement

- Anthony Sampson



#### Attia Hosain

Attia Hosain, writer: born Lucknow, India 20 October 1913: married Ali Bahadur Habibullah (one son, one daughter); died London 23 January 1998.

The people who came to see Attia Hosain honoured at a book launch a few weeks ago could have been forgiven for expecting a subdued and fragile old lady. After all, Hosain was 84. had had a long and turbulent life and for years had been in poor

health. The launch demanded nothing of her but that she sit on stage as a sort of icon and accept the homage of her admirers, while her daughter - the film producer Shama Habibullah - read from one of her moth-

er's early World Service pieces. But Hosain was not one to sit back passively letting encomiums wash over her. Despite her physical difficulties, she immediately engaged with her audience, vividly sharing her emotions and memories. Her indomitability and eloquence

swept problems aside, with a English governess, and subsedegree of hauteur and a magnificent sense of style.

Those qualities must have stood her in good stead. She was born in 1913 into an aristocratic family in Lucknow - a city that is a byword for Muslim scholarship and culture. From her father she inherited a keen interest in politics and nationalism. From her mother's family of poets and scholars she drew a rich knowledge of Urdu, Persian and Arabic. Her knowledge of English came from an

quently as one of the few Indian girls at an English medium school. She was the first woman from her background to take a

degree at Lucknow University. From early on she was a communicator, first through feature articles for Indian papers, the Pioneer and the Statesman. and membership of the radical Progressive Writers' Movement The fiction came later, as a result - she recently speculated of politics and dislocation.

The use of an injunction

future infringement of

payment for past

copyright and to extract

infringement was not an

unlimited by time to prevent

partitioned into India and Pak- er with her own women's pro- brought out her book of short istan, Hosain was in London with her husband, who had been posted the year before to the High Commission. The division of the two countries and the separation of two religious communities caused her great pain. Immensely proud of her heritage as both a Muslim and an Indian, she chose to remain in England and bring up her daughter and son - now the film director Waris Hussein - on her own. The change brought her a this year - that drove her to write. she embraced with zest.

gramme on the BBC World Service and a new perspective.

But the sense of damaged cultural roots never fully died away. "Here I am, I have chosen to live in this country which has given me so much: but I cannot get out of my blood the fact that I had the blood of my ancestors for 800 years in another country." It was that, she said in her last piece - to be published in an anthology later and gave her a platform which

In 1953, Chatto and Windus

stories Phoenix Fled. Eight years later came Sunlight on a Broken Column, an evocative and carefully detailed novel which traces, via the story of young Laila, a society in transition. It was over 20 years, however, before the book was widely recognised. Brought out of oblivion by Virago in their splendid Modern Classics in 1988, it re-established Attia Hosain in the public eye

Naseem Khan



Hosain: indomitable

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS SWYCHER: Sir Tom and Ludy Former.

Edinburgh, are pleased to announce the birth of their third grandchild to their daughter Sally and son-in-law Nigel Swycher, a brother for Emma

#### DEATHS

ALLIBONE: Jill Spencer. On 3 February, peacefully. Much-loved wife of David and mother of Shirin, Finch and Jessamy. Family funeral. Memorial Service at 8t George's Church, Benenden, on Wednesday 11 February at 2pm. Enquiries and donations, if wished, payable to Mausolea and Monuments Trust c/o J. Perigoe & Son, Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF. Telephone 01580713636.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be CHARGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0771-293 2010 or faxed to 0771-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line CVAT extral

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen, Patron of the Leonard Chrishire Foundation, visits Park House, Sandring-

Changing of the Guard Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment juts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse

#### Birthdays

Mr Red Buttons, actor and comedian, 79; Maj-Gen Sir Simon Cooper, Master of HM Household, 62; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 80; Lord Gibson, former Chairman, National Trust, 82; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 56: Profes-sor Sir Alan Hodgkin OM, former Master, Trinity College, Cambridge. 84; The Hon Douglas Hogg MP, 53; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, chair-man, Services Sound and Vision Corporation, 68; Ms Melanie Johnson MP, 43; Mr Mark Jones, Director, National Museums of Scotland, 47: Mr Denis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 63; Sir Andrew Morritt. a Lord Justice of Appeal, 60; Pro-fessor Adam Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 75; Mr Nick Palmer MP, 48; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 52: The Very Rev Colin Semper, for-mer Canon of Westminster, 60; Mr Michael Simpson-Orlebar, former ambassador to Mexico, 66; Mr Arthur Sulzberger, former chair-man and publisher of the New York

#### Times, 72; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, former orthopaedic surgeon to the Queen, 71; Mr David Turner, crick-

**Anniversariës** Births: Sir Robert Peel, statesman, 1788; John Boyd Dunlop, inventor of the pneumatic tyre, 1840; Sir William Newzam Prior Nicholson, painter and

eter, 49; Lord Williams of Mostvn.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Constitution, 57: Sir Leslie Young, director, Lancashire Enterprises, 73.

engraver, 1872. Deaths: Giambattista Moroni, portrait painter, 1578; Thomas Carlyle, author and historian, 1881; Marianne Craig Moore poet, 1972; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, 1988. On this day: the Spanish captured Minorca from the British, 1782; the Prince of Wales ("Prinny") was declared Prince Regent, 1811; Rossin's opera The Barber of Seville was first performed Rome, 1816; Verdi's opera Otello was first performed, Milan, (887; in Rus sia, Church and State were official ly separated, 1918; the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell, Lincs, was founded, 1920. Today is the Feast Day of St Adelaide of Bellich, St Agatha. St Avitus of Vienne. St Bertulph or Bertoul of Renty, Sa Indractus and Dominica and St

#### Lectures

Wallace Collection: Joanne Hed-ley, "Greuze and Sensibilite", 1pm. Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (Oxford Amnesty Lectures): Bartha Knoppers, "Who Should Have Access to Genetic Information?" 5,30pm.

#### Gresham College (Barnard's Inn Hall, London ECI): Professor Colin Pillinger, "Sojourning and Surveying on Mars", 1pm.

James Lees-Milne A memorial service for James Lees-Milne will be held at the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audiey Street, London W1, on Thursday 12 March, at I lant.

In 1947, when India was career as a regular broadcast-LAW REPORT: 5 FEBRUARY 1998

Copyright owner can have unlimited injunction

Phonographic Performance Ltd v Martra and other actions; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Mummery) 3 February 1998

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) against orders made in proceedings for infringement of copyright. whereby injunctions limited by time were granted against the defendants.

PPL, as assignecs, adminis-

tered the performing, broad-

casting and cable programme

rights in the sound recordings

of the vast majority of record

companies. A person who took Peter Goldsmith QC, Jonathan Rayn-

reportoire of its member companies. PPL took infringement proceedings against persons discovered to be making unlicensed use of the repertoire, if they failed to apply for a licence after the need to do so had been drawn to their attention. For many years PPL had ob-

tained final judgment in default under RSC Order 19 rule 7(1) against persons making unlicensed use of the repertoire. The orders made included an injunction with immediate effect and without limit of time to restrain further infringement. In the current actions, the judge had made orders granting injunctions to take effect 28 days after the date of order, to continue for six months or until the defendant applied for a licence, whichever was the earlier.

one of its licences was entitled er James QC and Amanda Michaels to use all the recordings in the (Green Sheikh & Co, formerly Green David Conway & Co) for PPL: Mary Vitoria QC (Nick Kounoupias, Performing Right Society Ltd) for the Perfonling Right Society as intervener: Michael Silverleaf QC (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curine.

> Lord Woolf MR handed down the judgment of the court. The issue of principle raised on the appeal was whether the judge had been entitled to refuse to grant injunctions with immediate effect and without limit of time.

> In the present cases the judge had been aware, from carlier proceedings before him, of the practice of PPL to require a person who applied for a licence to take it from the first day on which they had used the repertoire. A person who had infringed would, thus, only be granted a licence when he had regularised his position. A per-

son against whom an injunction had been granted would, similarly, not be granted a licence if he did not pay the appropriate licence fee in respect of past infringement. The judge had been con-

cerned at PPL's practice of using an injunction of unlimited duration as a lever to extract payment of past fees, a practice which he regarded as an abuse of process. He had therefore restricted the injunctions granted, and PPL submitted that that was a wrong exercise of his discretion.

A person who exploited his property right by licensing was entitled, except in special circumstances, to prevent unlicensed use of his property right and to refuse to grant a licence except on his terms and conditions as to payment and use. In cases such as the present there was no reason why

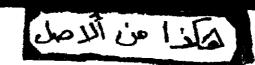
the use of an injunction in the normal form to prevent future. infringement should be an abuse. No doubt the consequence was that a defendant was forced to pay if he wished to use the repertoire, but PPIwere entitled to use the rights assigned to them in that way.

A person who had know ingly infringed PPL's rights and had shown an intention to continue to do so should not be surprised to be told that, if he did continue to infringe, he risked committal to prison: nor should he be surprised that, when a breach of the injunction had occurred, it was pointed out that committed proceedings would follow un-

less he regularised his position. The appeals would be allowed, with the result that the injunctions granted would be in the normal form sought by PPL.

**EBHONE** 

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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Like Christine Hamilton before her, Vanessa Davis (Mrs Oflot) is today facing up to ordeal by media, a plunge in income and the rapid exit of friends and status, all because her husband went and lost his big job. Ros Wynne-Jones on the worst day in a wife's life.

It began with an episode of Panorama. It ended yesterday, after nearly two years of the media inquiring as to whether his position was really tenable, as a man in high public office cleared his desk. As his world collapsed, his wife was out on the doorstep of the family home raining verbal blows on those who would doubt her "honourable, upright and decent" husband's integrity. "There's been some awful things said and written about my husband, and it's obviously upsetting for him and me," she said incredulously. "But I know he did absolutely nothing wrong."

In yesterday's drama, the central character was Peter Davis, the UK lottery regulator sacked after a libel jury upheld Richard Branson's claim that the chairman of Glech, a member of the Camelot consortium, had tried to bribe him to drop his own bid to run the lottery. But there was a sense of déjà vu, as his wife Vanessa made a solid defence from behind the scenes, a Christine Hamilton in the making. We have been here before, in Tatton last spring, when every day the press pack grew exponentially with the daffodils outside the Hamilton's Nether Alderley mansion. And last night, Mrs Hamilton, who has become as practised as Hillary Clinton in the art of standing by her man, had a few words of advice for Mrs Vanessa Davis on how to weather a very public humiliation.

"At first it seems almost as if the world is ending," she said yesterday, from Nether Aiderley. "The witch-hunt climate grows and you are besieged by the press. You pass people in the street and you know what they've read in the papers and you expect them to think the worst of you." Mrs Hamilton admitted "rather enjoying" the recent Robin Cook saga - "I wouldn't be human if I hadn't" - but said that she couldn't help feeling some sympathy for

"The most important thing for Mrs Davis to do is to keep strong for her hus-

at this stage is his wife getting hysterical in the street. You have to be all smiles. It might not seem like it, but the rat pack will

quite quickly move on to someone else." During the cash-for-questions saga, Mrs Hamilton turned out to be an important link between several of the key players. having been a former secretary to Sir Michael Grylls, who was implicated along with her husband, Neil. So too, a chance meeting in 1975 between Mrs Davis and another woman, Cordelia Menges, began a chain of events that has contributed to Mr Davis's resignation.

attending ante-natal classes, following the birth of her son, Alexander, now an Oxford undergraduate, when she met tery tickets so that the head of the house-Mrs Menges, the wife of a New York financier. The women got along well and eventually became friends as mothers more damaging tag "controversial". Asked with children the same age. In 1994, the Davis's visited the Menges at their Long Island home during a trip in which Mr Davis studied the US lottery. The problem was that Mr Menges was now a nonexecutive director of a company called

While in the States, Mr Davis made three flights aboard a Cessna Citation III executive jet, four journeys in a helicopter and was chauffeur-driven in a limousine. All these free rides were in GTech vehicles. His decision not to decline GTech hospitality has since been called "a serious error of judgement" by the all-party Commons public accounts committee.

"With hindsight I'm sure Mr Davis would never have accepted those things from GTech," says Mrs Hamilton. "With hindsight, Neil and I would never have

#### FEATURE AWARD

Brigid McConville has won an award for her feature in The Independent on a London surgeon and his work with African women living here who have suffered genital mutilation. The Family Planning Association and Guild of Health Writers judged it the best national newspaper or magazine article on sexual health or family planning.

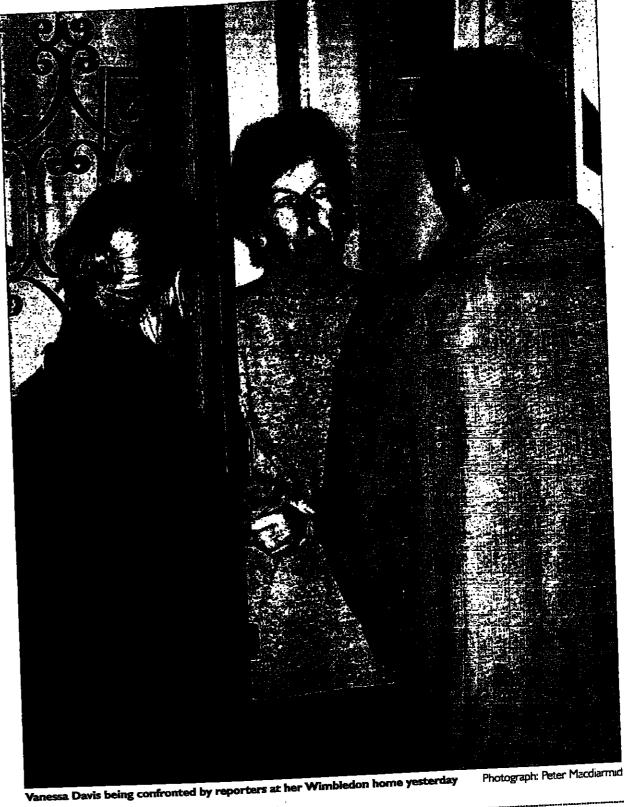
band," she says. "The last thing he needs gone to the Ritz [owned by Mohammed al Fayed, for whom Mr Hamilton was subsequently accused of asking questions in the House of Commons)." She admits that with such a cloud hanging over her husband's departure as MP for Tatton it is hard for either Hamilton to find work. "Neil has all sorts of talents, as a barrister, an economist, and so forth, but companies don't want to be associated with him," she says. "I expect Mr Davis will find that people want his talents and skills but not his name. They'll soon find out who their friends are.

Mr Davis, a Wimbledon and Arsenal Twenty two years ago. Mrs Davis was supporter once labelled "Mr Boring" by the tabloids because of his decree that Mrs Davis and their two sons must not buy lothold was beyond reproach, now finds himself with the more interesting but also once how he would have spent a jackpot lottery, he replied that he would buy fishing rights in Ireland and Scotland and be "frightfully boring" by investing the rest. Mrs Davis could have had a "nice birthday present" he added. Neighbours describe the family as "suburban, ordinary".

This year, her birthday present will no doubt be inexpensive as the Davis's begin to cut back following the loss of Mr Davis's £80,000 Oflot salary. Accepting the Oflot job had already meant a pay cut as Mr Davis, who lives in a £1m mansion, complete with tennis court in Wimbledon, had been earning a far higher salary in the private sector. Although he still holds positions at Equitable Life and Provident Priendly which will bring in about £50,000 per year, the loss of the £80,000 will be sorely missed.

Christine Hamilton is philosophical about her husband's - and her own - loss of status following 1 May. "In the end, what's happened to us is nothing compared with some of our friends in the same period," she says. "We haven't faced cancer or family traumas or divorce. In a way we're lucky." She adds mischievously: "Anyway, at least Martin Bell knows what it's like to be accused of impropriety now."

All that may seem of little comfort to the Davis's, however, as they watch the press pack outside and contemplate once more being on the front pages of tomorrow's media. Mrs Davis, who has since fallen out with her friend Mrs Menges, will undoubtedly be wishing she'd chosen a different ante-natal class 22 years ago.



#### **DILEMMAS**

# My colleague is sexually harassing me. What should I do about it?



**IRONSIDE** 

Mary thinks she's suffering from sexual harassment at work. A colleague has patted her on the bottom as she leaned over a drinking fountain, and made sexy suggestions when they've been at a hotel on business together. He recently gave her a big squeeze in the corridor and she feels dirty. What should she do?

"What should Mary do?" is rather an odd question. Surely the question is: "What should she have done?" Because if, as it sounds, she's put up with this man's advances so far, small

ing her squeezes in the office. He's met with no resistance to his pattings and suggestions, so he's taking things a step further. Sounds like a completely normal man to me, who thinks Mary enjoys this office flirtation, which he doubtless has no intention of taking further. For all one knows he's got himself so far now that he's actually giving her squeezes out of sheer gallantry. If Mary didn't like her bot-

tom being patted why didn't she whirl round and tell him to get lost at once? If she didn't like his sexual suggestions while they were on business why didn't she set her face in stone and tell him that what he was saying was the most repulsive idea she'd ever heard? Why. when he squeezed her in the corridor, didn't she knee him in the groin? Or, if she's not spunky enough to react that quickly, she should at least have told him in a dignified way that she doesn't relish his behaviour one bit. As for feeling dirty, I think she feels dirty not because of his sexual advances, but because she allows herself to feel dirty. This dirtiness she feels is shame at herself for not standing up for herself, not dirt that a few sexual gropings can make her feel. After all, if a dog puts its nose up their skirt, few except the most paranoid of women would feel "dirty". They might, however, feel dirty if they encouraged it or let it keep sniffing. This man should be treated like an eager dog. "Down, sir! No," Mary should say, as it were, as she pushes him away. "No walkies for you if you go on like this!" And she

wonder he's going round giv- should then forget the whole in- WHAT READERS SAY cident. This man's activity is led by Mary's passivity, and while I wouldn't go as far as saying she brings it on herself, she certainly has not behaved like a grown-up woman if she's let him get away with it so far.

Of course she could get him on a sexual harassment rap if she's so weak as to be unable to deal with this by herself. She could get friends and colleagues to keep evidence and diaries of his sexual behaviour, tell his manager, and ask him or her to have a quiet word with him. But I don't think any of that is necessary.

As one of the women who wore one of the world's first miniskirts in the Sixties in an allmale office, it never occurred to me to go to a tribunal. Frankly, the entire staff would have had to have been reprimanded anyway, including, no doubt, half the men on the tribunal. Groans would go round the office if I wore tights instead of stockings and suspenders, and when I first started wearing knee-length black boots (only available at dance shoe shops in those days) perspiration stuck out on the foreheads of editors as well as office boys. It never occurred to me to feel dirty. I quite enjoyed the attention and none of it went further than surreptitious staring, wolf whistles, innuendo and the odd grope which was equally flirtatiously rebuffed.

This colleague of Mary's has somehow got her feeling like a victim. She must take back the initiative and react like a woman in her own right. And remember that no man can make any woman feel dirty.

Next time it happens, threaten to tell

The answer to Mary's problem is quite simple. The next time the man concerned touches her or makes lewd comments, she should offer him the choice: "The next time you behave like this, should I report you, and inform your wife, or should I knee you in the balls?" Mary must look him straight in the eye and say: "I mean it, you are not being funny or clever, and 've had enough."

If it upsets Mary to confront the pest in this way, she must not be afraid to show that upset - a little emotion shows the sincerity of what she is saying, and can only result in the isolation of the perpetrator in the workplace. The important thing is for him to realise that Mary means what she says, and for Mary herself to be certain she isn't bluffing - so no idle threats. James Thompson,

Welwyn Garden City, Herts

Have a quiet word to stop it going any further Could Mary take her time to think just what to say and find a suitable moment to calmly have a word with him? It could be done with good humour and even a slight smile. Something like, "Now look, we work in the same office and we need to get on, as it were. But at the same time it is difficult for me to deal with your various attentions (and you will know what I mean)." She could perhaps add: "I could, of course, com-

plain officially - but we wouldn't want that, would Michael Guyer London

Keep a log of everything and prepare your case

This is a serious sexual harassment issue and Mary has let things go on for too longshe has to tell her boss now! In order to do this effectively, she should get organised. She should make a log of all the "events", including date, time and anything they each said. She has already talked to other women in the office - now she needs to limit her comments to one or two trustworthy people, making sure that it

Mary should avoid all contact with this guy, but if she must send written communication, it should be businesslike and she should keep a copy. She really ought to confront him (with another person

does not become gossip.

as witness) and tell him succinctly, "Do not touch me, or speak to me about anything other than business matters. You are out of line and I am taking further action." No

apologies, no discussion. A copy of the file goes to her boss ASAP, with notification that if the boss doesn't take action, he/she will be included in future legal action. Additionally, she really ought to stop calling female co-

workers "girls" - they are women. Alice P Schaaf

Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

Try this public humiliation for sex pests

I suggest that Mary follows the example of a quick-thinking friend of mine who, when groped in a tube train, swiftly grasped hold of the offending wrist, held it high and exclaimed loudly: "I found this hand on my bottom - does it belong to anyone?" This public humiliation should be sufficient to make this pest think twice before sexually harassing

Margaret Fox Tadworth, Surrey

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#### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I am a professional teacher and have worked for several years. I have three children of school age (eight, 10 and 12 years old) and a husband who earns enough to keep us all comfortably. However, lots of people ask me when I'm going back to work. But I find it difficult to justify taking a job when there are others who probably need it more than I do. Our family life is less stressful if I don't work, but I feel that I have had an expensive education and should give something back to society in the form of doing the work I've been frained to you would like to share, please let me know.

do. Should I join the rat race or adapt myself to being an unaccustomed homemaker? Yours sincerely, Eileen

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send your comments and suggestions to me at the Features Department, 'The Independent' 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday

And if you have a dilemma of your own that



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The Independent has recently had its problems with Robin Cook, but vesterday he did a good thing. The Foreign Secretary made a brave start at addressing the problems of Britain's remaining colonies; now he must go further.

The Dependent Territories, a clutch of far-flung possessions strung across the globe, are the last morsels of the empire which Britain bit off and then spat out over the course of four centuries. Most are islands, the remnants of a naval strategy that dominated the world for most of the nineteenth century. Gibraltar, the Falklands and St Helena only had meaning for Britain as coaling stations and fortresses. Once naval supremacy was gone, after Britain lost its other colonies, and as submarines, nuclear missiles and aircraft redefined military strategy, they lost their point as far as the metropolis was con-

But as far as their inhabitants are concerned, they are still home, and they are still British. We may sometimes feel that it is slightly surreal or anachronistic that the United Kingdom has dominions in the South Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean or the Pacific. But it does; and the inhabitants of these territories often feel that they are neither understood, nor well treated, nor accepted.

None of these places wants independence; most couldn't cope with it. That means, as the Foreign Office has at last grasped, that we have to come up with a plan for looking after places as diverse as the Falkland Islands and Anguilla.

Mr Cook started in the right place yesterday when he addressed the Dependent Territories Association in London. He began by talking about mutual trust and respect between Britain and the dependent territories, something that has been all too lacking - notably in the dealings of Labour with Montserrat. Symbolically, renaming them the United Kingdom Overseas territories will help put the

NO, NO....

I'M JUST

PLEASED

TO SEE

relationship on a fairer footing (and it is better than calling them the British Overseas Territories: that name only served to make their interiority complex worse). Allocating to them a new sub-department in the Foreign Office might not sound much, but it will help clarify administration and ensure that the territories have a closer relationship with the bureaucracy.

In return, the territories will have to clean up their acts in a few, specific areas. Financial regulation has been a big problem, though many of the Caribbean islands have acted already. Respect for human rights - including the abolition of the death penalty, and the establishment of gay rights - is only reasonable if these places are to continue to have close ties to Britain.

The main nettle still to be grasped is passports. In a noble gesture of post-colonial reconciliation, Britain took their British passports away in 1981, and handed out second-class documents in their place. shabby passports that do not give a right of abode in the UK. The motive was solely to stop the people of Hong Kong from coming to Britain once it became clear that the former colony would return to Chinese sovereignty. This piece of monstrous hypocrisy was then topped off with another: even when Hong Kong had been handed back, the Government refused to give back the passports to the 150,000 people remaining under British rule. The reason, apparently, was that it would look bad to act so soon after Hong Kong had gone.

This pathetically poor piece of reasoning is still being used to deny the people of St Helena and elsewhere their right to a proper passport. Gibraltar and the Falklands have them already, which also raises some big questions. These two territories are, of course, subject to rival sovereignty claims, which is the main reason why their inhabitants are privileged. But it is also worth pointing out that most of the people of Gibraltar and the Falklands are white; most of the others are not.

Racism? Quite possibly. The main opponent of handing out passports is the Home Office, where plenty of ignoble spir-its still find a home. Even if it is not racism, it does not look good for Britain. Nor does it fit with Mr Cook's arguments about mutual trust and respect. And it won't help the Government when it presses its claims over financial regulation and human rights if it is, in effect, offering little in return. The Foreign Secretary realises all that and is trying to change things: which is a moral, but also practical thing to do, and he deserves all the support he can get.

There is one further step the Government needs to take. The territories have, at present, little in the way of democratic representation in London. It would be difficult to give them, say, a seat in the Commons. But in a government where radical and innovative constitutional thinking is encouraged, it shouldn't be impossible to find a way to give every British citizen at home and overseas - a vote and a voice.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-muil correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

#### **LETTERS**

SADDAM CONTINUES TO FRUSTRATE THE UN WEAPONS INSPECTORS ....

#### President of the UK

The germ of the answer to Andreas Whittam Smith's problem in finding a credible president is to be found within his own article ("Why I lost the debate over the monarchy". 3 February).

He raised the question as to who best represented the mood of the nation at the time of Princess Diana's death. Answer: not the Queen but the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Pursue this idea to other great emotional crises. Who best represented the mood of the nation at the time of the Dunblane massacre? All three party leaders. And during the Second World War? The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

The reason why there is never a satisfactory answer to the question as to who would make a suitable president for this country is because we are still locked into an infantile, dewy-eyed myth of how the monarch represents the nation. And of course no real person can satisfy that myth.

The question Andreas Whittam Smith should really ask is: can readers name a single event of the last hundred years which, were it to occur today, the absence of the monarch would leave an emotional or symbolic vacuum? If the answer is none, as I believe it is, then we have grown out of the need for the myth. There is simply no need any longer for a head of state of that kind, whether monarch or president. The reality is that all the constitutional, symbolic, and emotional roles of the monarch can be performed by the Speaker and her parliamentarians, supported by a mature and selfconfident electorate. PETER MANN London W2

Andreas Whittam Smith asks who would make a good president for our country, should we abolish the monarchy. Could I suggest Elizabeth Windsor as being more than suitable for the job? LAWRENCE KILKENNY Stafford

#### Lottery regulator

While one would agree with the comments in your leading article "The jury's verdict damned the lottery regulator, too" (3 February), there is another aspect of the situation which must be remedied.

The obligations of the regulator to maximise revenue constrain his ability to deal adequately with public interest issues. This is particularly so since Camelot wishes to expand the market and has recently even recommended to the Secretary of State that there should be curbs on the regulator. At the same time, the Culture Department demands increasing amounts of revenue. In such a setting, public interest pressures inevitably become secondary considerations.

In practice therefore, revenue maximisation has become the predominant duty. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the regulator to act in an even-handed way. Such a combination of roles is not found in the statutory powers and duties of any oth-

er regulator. Clearly, a true regulator post, with an overriding statutory obligation to take account of the public interest, needs to be created. The National Lottery Bill at present before Parliament makes no provision for this.

Dr E MORAN Chairman, The National Council on Gambling London N14

#### Nigerian crime wave

It has become a pastime for the press to make Nigeria a scapegoat for the inability of the system to check rampant sharp practice ("Nigerian crime wave sweeps through Britain", 2 February).

Nigeria has a sophisticated array of professionals in virtually all areas of British developmental effort - all contributing most assiduously toward bettering their lives and the British system. Nigeria cannot be held responsible for ineffective checks on possible abuses in councils by a few rotten eggs among her large population in the UK.

Admittedly, there are some Nigerians who have chosen unorthodox means of livelihood to reciprocate British hospitality, but a clear distinction has to be made between this small band of misfits and honest, hardworking and disciplined Nigerians.

It is important to stress that Nigeria is neither a producing nor a consuming nation of hard drugs. As far back as 1985, Nigeria took the unprecedented step of executing three undergraduates for drug trafficking. It was the first in the African continent. This is just to show how seriously Nigeria takes the war against drugs and financial crime.

If Britain could co-operate with Nigeria, or even put up 10 per cent of the effort that the Nigerian government has devoted so far to fighting these crimes, the situation would have been abated. **GREYNE ANOSIKE** 

Editor/Deputy Head, Nigeria Information Service Centre Nigeria High Commission

#### Artful arguments

Unfortunately, in his vigorous campaign to support Greenwich Theatre, Matthew Francis (letter, 2 February) has missed the main point of Trevor Phillips' article (24 January).

Far from telling arts practitioners not to bother to argue for increased funding, Trevor Phillips urged them to develop sharper arguments in support of public subsidy for the arts. The old ones are simply not working. As far as Greenwich

Theatre itself is concerned, the fact is that average paid attendance did not raise the box office above 28 per cent of financial capacity last year and that is not enough to sustain the business on present or even increased levels of public funding. Furthermore, this core and decreasing audience does not reflect the range and diversity of south-east London.

But just because this particular operation is not proving viable, it doesn't mean that

Greenwich and south-east London should not have access to arts of the highest quality and London Arts Board will continue to work hard to that end. To suggest that the board is not committed to companies working with disadvantaged communities is nonsense. The board's policy this year has been to increase funding around 60 uplifts in all - to theatres and arts organisations throughout London, including groups like Oval House in

Lambeth and Heart 'n' Soul,

the leading arts disability group. in Lewisham. DAVID POWELL Deputy Chairman London Arts Board

#### Amnesty for pigs

Paul Vallely ("How the flying pigs became a crackling good tale", 17 January) claims that in the 1970s "Amnesty International financed experiments to torture pigs to find out London EC1

whether certain kinds of torture could be used without damaging skin" and suggests that this stemmed from attitudes towards animals "embedded in English culture and law".

PRIESTLEY

The incident Mr Vallely refers to took place in Denmark, when a group of doctors who were members of Amnesty International undertook experiments on themselves and anaesthetised pigs with the aim of establishing a basis for forensic proof that even small electric shocks lead to demonstrable changes to the skin.

When the Amnesty International membership learnt of these experiments, the organisation disassociated itself from the experiments and resolved at its 1978 International Council meeting that it would never undertake or be associated with medical experimentation on either human beings or animals. PAULSTREETS

Deputy Director Amnesty International UK

#### Freedom to B flat

Since the dawn of orchestral music, composers have always been held back from writing exactly as they wished, by those that commissioned and consumed the symphonies, sonatas and concertos. Music in any tradition has long been governed by what those paying for it expect to hear.

The "forty years of madness" which began in 1945 signalled not the beginning of the end of "classical" composition, as Julian Lloyd Webber asserts ("Stop the dictators of modern music", 2 February), but the dawn of artistic freedom.

DAVID KERNOHAN Leicester

A professional musician friend of mine, who is given to describing most avant-garde music as sounding like "a fire in a pet shop", gleefully relates the following story, which he assures me is not apocryphal.

After taking part in the world première (probably also the world demière) of an avantgarde orchestral composition, well-known clarinettist realised that he had, quite by accident, played the entire piece on his A clarinet rather than the B flat instrument specified in the score.

The fact that the clarinet part was thus heard a semitone lower than intended entirely escaped the notice of all those present, including the conductor, the composer and his sponsors. Need one say

ALEXANDER EASTWELL Romsley.

#### The first black peer?

It was good to read the article "Not them, not us, just here" (ISM, 31 January). You describe Lord Taylor of Warwick, however, as the "first black peer".

I applaud his achievement, but you've clearly forgotten the late Lord Pitt of Hampstead, while Baroness Flather was in the upper house for six years, and Lord Chitnis 19 years before Lord Taylor. Who does hold the distinction of being the first black peer? Was itthe cricketer Lord (Learie) Constantine? **CARLJACKSON** South Croydon,

# Oops – Sorry I Forgot Your Sad Suicide' ... and other greetings cards the censor saw



MILES KINGTON

Number 29: A taste controller in the greetings card industry

"Up to the 1960s, nobody ever saw the slightest need for taste control in the greetings card says Horace Liveright.

"That's because everything was tasteful. Ghastly good taste, you might say. Suffocatingly good taste. Everything was pink clouds and bedroom slippers and little puppies and golf clubs for dad. But in the 1960s everything loosened up. People let it all hang out. We had sex and drugs and rock'n roll, and the greetings card industry was

greetings card went on the Advisory Centre. We advise. We serious card for a serious ocmarket inscribed 'Greetings To A Really Horny Guy... ', you knew things would never be quite the same again."

It is impossible to tell from Horace Liveright's expression whether he thinks this is a good thing or not. Presumably he thinks it is a good thing, because otherwise he would not be the chief censor of the greetings card industry. Although censor is not a word he likes to

"No, I am not a censor. A censor is someone who stops things being known. I cannot stop someone telling someone else that he is glad it is his birthday. All I can do is exercise some advisory power. I am no exception. When the first head of the Greetings Card

do not control." In what way would he exer-

cise his right to advise? "Well, you may have read recently that a leading card manufacturer has issued a set of cards to send to people whose lives have been blighted by the suicide of a loved one. Sorry to hear about your suicide in the family, and that sort of thing." And did Horace Liveright

try and stop it? "Oh no!" Horace looks somewhat shocked. "No, we are very glad whenever a card company finds a new occasion to issue a set of cards for. It's the follow-up we try to keep an eye

Follow-up? "Well, whenever you get a

the whole industry is low casion, you start to get variaenough already? tions on it after a while. The "How do you mean?" says conventional birthday card led Horace Liveright impassively.

to the satirical birthday card, Well, there are outrageously and to the sexy birthday card, gay birthday cards with pictures and the pop-up birthday card. and the musical birthday card, of naked men, and outrageously ageist cards for older and the late birthday card... birthdays, and highly suggestive The late birthday card? pop-up cards, and... and... Hold Yes, you know, when you on a moment. A pop-up suicide have forgotten someone's birthcard? What would a pop-up suiday and you try to make cide card look like? amends by sending an 'Oops-Sorry I Forgot Your Birthday!' card. Well, that's fine with a

"Well, as you opened it, a hand might go up, pulling a noose. Or a hand with a gun might come out at you. Or ... Wouldn't that be in the

most appalling taste? "Of course. It's my job to make sure it doesn't happen. So whenever I come across a card

which seems to transgress all

**65.00** 

rules of taste. I move heaven and earth to get them withdrawn. And what happens to them

if and when they are withdrawn? "Well, they are all pulped, all

except the copies I keep. 1 have a little collection of banned greetings cards. My Black Card Museum, I call it. Care to have a look?

And into a back room I was led, after the door had been unlocked, to see the most unsettling collection of cards I have ever seen. Pop-up cards involving chain saws and severed limbs. Musical cards involving indecorous lyrics. Cards to be sent to a necrophiliac. Cards which involved libel on living people (mostly Jeffrey

Archer, it has to be said). Gay religious cards saying things about the Pope which couldn't possibly be true. (Could they?) Blasphemous cards, naughty 3-D cards, even cards bearing illicit cannabis seeds...

"Amazing stuff, isn't it?" said Horace Liveright, licking his lips, panting slightly and his face slightly flushed, as he closes the door to his Black Card Museum. "Quite amazing."

It's hard to be certain, but I fancy that in his work dedicated to protecting the public from the damaging effect of tasteless cards, Mr Horace Liveright may have become the first man in history to become depraved and corrupted by exposure to greeting cards.

لكذا من ألاصل

birthday, but can you imagine

if someone marketed an "Oops

- Sorry I Forgot Your Sad Sui-

cide" card? Or a pop-up suicide

card? It would lower the tone

Yes, but surely the tone of

of the whole industry.

13

# War could come closer to home than Iraq



RUPERT CORNWELL ON A DIVIDED ISLAND

NICOSIA - It's not so much a wall as a noman's land of crumbling villas, sandbagged pillboxes and coils of rusting barbed wire, populated by semi-feral cats. This is the Green Line, the physical barrier running through the heart of Europe's last divided city. But green could soon shift to red, as in red alert. For the "Cyprus Question" - that tangle of Greco-Turkish rivalry and nationalism, steeped in history and in blood - is with us again.

At this point, readers may already be throwing up their hands. A UN plan (or to put it in the curious jargon of Cyprus peacemaking, a "non-plan" complete with "non-maps") has been around since 1992. It provides for a bizonal, bi-communal federation between the estranged Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parts of the island. So it's having a rough ride - but what else is new? Despite the best efforts of the cleverest diplomats to achieve a settlement, Cyprus has been partitioned since the Greek-inspired coup and subsequent Turkish invasion of 1974. So why not accept the status quo: why try to federate communities that cannot abide each other? Unfortunately, the status quo is highly unstable. Cyprus is a mess, and a dangerous mess.

Consider a few facts. Greece and Turkey, the patron powers of the two communities, are snarling at each other across the Aegean. They carry out regular military exercises around Cyprus, including such confidencebuilding measures as buzzing planes carrying each other's defence minister. The Turks have stationed 35,000 soldiers in the unrecognised "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC). In response, the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, covering the Greek Cypriot two-thirds of the island, is about to install Russian anti-aircraft missiles. Turkey has said it will "take out" the missiles. But the Cyprus Government has a defence agreement: with Greece, so any Turkish intervention could trigger war with Greece.

On top of this, the European Union is about to open entry negotiations with Cyprus. letting, ever getting together again. But it's When the EU gave the green light in 1995, it seemed a good idea - a catalyst that one way or another would change the Cyprus equation. Well, it's changed it, but for the worse. Turkey's own relations with the EU have plumbed new depths as a result of the rejection of its own application for membership, while the TRNC is furious, maintaining the Greek Cypriot government has no right to act on its behalf, and that the EU has tilted un-

pardonably to the Greek cause. And so all is

Raul Denktash, the President of the TRNC, has vetoed any Turkish Cypriot participation in the entry negotiations, and now insists there will be no restart of intercommunal talks for a Cypriot settlement, until his Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is acknowledged as a party with equal status to the purely Greek Cypriot, Republic of Cyprus. No way, says the latter. But Denktash insists on recognition: "If we don't put our backs up and fight for our rights then the other side will do us in," he told me in his Presidential Palace a few hundred yards north of the Green Line. By "do us in" he does not mean war. The Greek Cypriots realise that even with Russian missiles and modern Russian tanks, they are outmatched by the Turkish troops already on the island, not to mention the firepower available on the mainland just 40 miles

Peaceful defeat, however, is another matter, and the future as seen from northern Nicosia offers little cheer. The south may boom, but only Turkey recognises the statelet of 180,000 people over which Denktash presides, meaning that a politically unstable country with a shambolic economy and a wheelbarrow currency is his sole commercial, financial and diplomatic outlet to the world. In a modest pizzeria by the old harbour at Girne - better known as Kyrenia, where the Turks (invaders or rescuers depending on which community you belonged to) landed in 1974 - a million Turkish pounds, equal to £3 sterling, buys just a beer and a sandwich. But Denktash has no choice but to snuggle closer, asking Ankara for more money and placing his men as unofficial diplomats in Turkish embassies abroad. Yet the last thing he wants is full political integration with the motherland. Northern Cyprus's per capita income may be a mere third that of the south. But it's still a great deal richer than mainland

Now it should not be beyond the wit of man (or more precisely the wit of Richard Holbrooke, who knocked heads on Bosnia and is now US special envoy on Cyprus) to find a means of fudging the recognition issue. And in two weeks, when the south's election is out of the way, a Cyprus president with a fresh mandate - perhaps the incumbent Glavkos Clerides - may find it easier to make concessions. But don't bank on it. Like Ireland, Cyprus wears history as a boulder round the neck. For Denktash and Clerides, as with Gerry Adams and David Trimble, the same principle obtains: if it makes the other guy happy, it must be bad for me. And so stalemate festers. It's hard to imag-

ine two communities with different languages and faiths, whose last memory of each other was coup, invasion, and reciprocal bloodharder still to swallow the prospect of deeppartition, a reciprocal arms build-up, and smouldering hostility between the patron powers, Greece and Turkey, that could be reignited by a single careless spark in Cyprus. Clerides and Denktash have been sparring about the Cyprus Question for nearly half a century. It's rarely been so important they finally reach an accommodation. And, sadly, rarely so unlikely.



# Who will be next ball out in the Great Regulators' Lottery?



DAVID WALKER MINDING THE MINDERS

19/COMMENT.

A moment's silence for Peter Davis, the deposed Lottery regulator. And a mite of sympathy. Yes he was untelegenic, someone who managed simultaneously to be wooden and slippery, who until the very moment his number was up seemed unaware of what the fuss was about. Yet he was also a victim whose fate owes much to decisions taken a decade and a half ago by a dangerous constitutional radical - Margaret Thatcher.

new breed of regulators, 121 ly unaccountable to either Whitehall or Parliament, untrained, amateur, working with minimal job descriptions and without performance appraisal. That some of them acquired near folk-hero status - James McKinnon for taking on British Gas, Bryan Carsberg as the

phone-user's friend at Oftel cannot detract from the administrative fact that huge amounts of discretionary power affecting millions of households were loaded on the shoulders of a diverse crew of quangocrats. They are not civil servants answerable to ministers nor politicians in their own right yet they have often, inconsistently, behaved like both.

There has lately been a breakdown in trust between the British people and their government - and the insouciant creation by the Tories of these undemocratic hybrids must bear some responsibility. Mrs Thatcher is often credited with

borrowing ideas from the old guru, Frederick von Hayek. But on this front, she failed completely to register one of the Austrian economist's great anxieties about the modern state that increasing amounts of its work gets devolved to a class of official who played by rules of their own devising.

The Office of the Lottery

Regulator is a bureaucratic copy of Oftel, the Office of Telecoms Regulation. Needing a figleaf for the public interest after the privatisation of British For it was Thatcher who, Telecoms, Mrs Thatcher rewithout reflection, created the buffed her ideologically-pure Passenger Rail Franchising, economic advisers and an- headed buy the even more obnounced that Oftel was to have extra but vaguely specified powers to promote competition. Space was inadvertently created for Bryan Carsberg spectacularly to play to the consumers' gallery - even though by law he had as much obligation to BT's shareholders as to BT's cus-

tomers. After Oftel, but without rigorous review, similar offices were created for the privatised gas, electricity and water industries (though not, inconsistently, for airports). In the nineties, the same formula was used for rail franchising and regulation and, since 1994, the National Lottery.

There were other choices like the American way of regulation, through open hearings (in which lawyers, needless to say, are heavily involved). But the Tories preferred the "good chaps approach. If ministers could stand up and say with their hands on their hearts that John Swift (at Ofrail) was a Queen's Counsel and a gent, hence completely above the railways fray, it absolved them from blame.

But who then asks how well Mr Swift (his contract is up for renewal in December) is performing or even what criteria he should be working with? Is public visibility part of his duties? How often, for example, do we see him on the Nine O'Clock News berating Railtrack? Just to make his life more complicated, the job of berating Richard Branson for failing to ensure Virgin trains run on time belongs to Ofraf (Office of scure John O'Brien).

Not that Mr O'Brien will answer the phone when commuters complain that the 07.45 from New Street is an hour late. No. That, it turns out, is somebody else's job. The point is not whether or

not individual regulators do a

good job; the difficulty is thea puzzling lack of definition over the job they are supposed to do. Clare Spottiswoode, overcame an initial bit of embarrassment at her effortless transition from a managing a small computer software company (was this relevant experience?) to make a fist of breaking up British Gas into regional suppliers. But both she and the Electricity Regulator (the economist Professor Stephen Littlechild, appointed partly because he had written the pricing formulae he was supposed to be implementing) have found themselves increasingly anachronistic. The industry has changed under their feet as gas suppliers have become electricity providers and vice versa - and meanwhile everyone who owns a conduit into households fancy themselves as the carriers

of communications. To call the utility regulators amateurish and their appointment procedures a game of chance would be cruel, but not too far from the truth. At water, Ian Byatt - now aged over 65 but apparently still to continue until the year 2000 - was previously a civil servant in the Treasury, a department not well known for its specialist knowledge ofsewerage and water pipes. Might he be the next ball all from the drum in the Great Regulators' Lottery?

Unsurprisingly Labour came to power last year promising to take a look at the regulatory empire created by the Tories. Yet we still have not seen the green paper that was supposed to follow the review of energy and

water regulation set in train last summer by Trade Secretary Margaret Beckett. As for the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, it promises a white paper later this year which might recommend a strategic rail authority. But where is the central data base that allows the relative performances of these men and women to be compared and contrasted? What we see here is another example of the fragmented nature of British

government. Jobs are vacant. Chris Smith needs to appoint a successor to Peter Davis; the job at Oftel is pending now that Don Cruickshank is off to help combat the dreaded Millennium bug. But it won't be enough for Labour to chop and change among personalities. More important is giving this game some hard and fast rules.

A few years ago it became fashionable to talk about the "regulatory state". In it governments would step back, hold the ring, let business get on with it.In reality, the Tories took fright at such a minimalist approach; they botched their own Now it's Labour's turn. To re-

alise its plans, regulators will need to be a lot more energetic -and more interventionist than ever. Surely that has to mean dispensing with the pretence that the regulators are free-floating independents. They need to be subjected - in ways Peter Davis evidently was not - to clear and accountable political

# My barmy relations ... and that photograph of the naked Kate Moss

#### • JOHN WALSH



YEARS AGO, BEFORE I became the soigné commentator you see before you, I used to write for a gossip column in a London paper. One of the traditions of the gossip's afternoon was what became known as the Shop Your Granny Hour namely, the hour before the deadline when, desperate for some shocking revelations with which to stun the reader, one would reveal without a qualm some gross indiscretion about a close relative, no matter what the cost to one's morals or one's chances of receiving a legacy. Of course, shopping your granny was the purest hyperbole, since none of our ancient ancestors did anything remotely interesting - few of them went to fashionable nightclubs on the arm of Rufus Sewell, and hardly any of them had affairs with the Foreign Secretary. It was just a figure of speech. But now of course it's got serious. For the past few weeks, a repellent advertisement has been heard on commercial radio. cooingly encouraging you to bring out your barmy relations.

-Memory loss? Confusion? Periodic forgetfulness?" it runs (I paraphrase, but not much). If you know of a loved one who suffers from any of these, why not put their name forward to take part in clinical trials. You could even find yourself remunerated for inconvenience. Candidates

must be over 50 to take рагt ..."

Am I alone in finding this approach a little insensitive? "Candidates must be over ..." is a formulation usually employed when telling members of the public how to get on to Blind Date, not how to become guinea pigs in some rebarbative clinical inspection. The detail about being "remunerated" may sound inoffensive, but it introduces a note of commercialisation that is nothing short of shocking. Why don't they just come clean and say: "Cash prizes for befuddled relatives. Is your grandma going mad? Is your old nan in the throes of Alzheimer's? Then turn her befogged state into hard cash. Why not bung her round here to our draughty rooms, leave her to our tender mercies for a few hours and pick up

Incensed, I rang the number they gave, spoke to a kindly Irish lady and said I was concerned about a "loved one" - her forgetfulness, her conversational breakdowns, her insipid diet, her lack of interest in the fortunes of Tranmere Rovers, etc. The woman asked for my number and said "a doctor or nurse" would ring me back. A likely story. There I sat through the long afternoon, waiting for the phone to ring, as the light began to fade. There I sat, as my head gradually cleared of urgent journalistic thoughts, to be replaced by snatches of old songs, faded sepia

memories, blurred images of faces I once knew ... Oh, for God's sake. I pulled myself together and exasperatedly rang the number a second time. "Yes?" asked a voice. Tm ringing about a Loved One. My name is Wal ...' "You've already rung us," said the Irish lady with a hint of asperity. "You're not suffering from memory loss, are you?'

I DON'T CARE WHAT A FEW

by me. I for one have no

million ignorant Yanks think.

The Duchess of York is fine

intention of giving up reading her Diary, as syndicated in a (regrettably dwindling) number of north American papers. Anyone who fails to be riveted by the news that young Beatrice (or is it Eugenie?) is in the habit of killing and eating insects, and is therefore about to turn into Jeffrey Dahmer, has no nose for important news. Anyone who doesn't warm to the Duchess's instinctive clutching at the wrong word (Upper Silesia is "a modern facsimile of hell"; "I am dealing with my debts in a respectful way," she told critics - should that be "respectable"?; "The stone walls of Buckingham Palace are mortared in mystique" should that be "brick walls"? Come to think of it, should that be "Mustique"?) must themselves have a heart of stone. But amid all the carping over her gradual transformation into a one-

woman merchandising

empire, just remember this. According to the marketing manager of the New York Times (who signed the syndication contract with her), she is "a mythic figure whose words are greatly anticipated among newspaper readers in the Persian Gulf". Imagine. Just as Mrs

Albright is darting round the Middle East, coordinating support for colossal air strikes, just as half of Kuwait is poised to migrate en masse to Saudi Arabia, just as you think the whole Iraqi population would be scanning the foreign pages with mild trepidation, what are they all secretly reading? "We believe in each other, Andrew and I. Isu't that what friendship is all about?"

HAVE YOU GOT A COPY OF last week's Independent Saturday Magazine handy? You'll need it for this story. The phone rang on Tuesday in the ISM offices (which are, as you can imagine, hugely palatial and awe-inspiring, somewhere between the Pentagon and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon). "It's about the feature on Yves St Laurent," said a male voice, with that slight quaver of lubriciousness that betokens the smut connoisseur. Oh yes, said the Deputy Editor, wearily, a fine piece of writing ... "It's about the photographs," said the voice. Mm-hmm, said the Deputy Editor. He'd been expecting a few calls. Even in 1998, you cannot publish pictures of

spectacularly tangerine-hued breasts (which may or may not be Kate Moss's) without attracting a few, as it were, knockers. "I refer you to the photograph on page 35," continued the voice, "as I have a special interest in it". As readers may recall, page 35 featured a curious miseen-scene of a nervous-looking football hooligan in a beige raincoat, standing beside a white sofa and failing to notice a young woman standing in front of him clad only in pink stiletto sandals.

"If you're wondering about the naked woman." said the Deputy Editor preemptively, "I don't actually think it is Kate Moss". "I wasn't ringing about that."

"If it's a copyright matter," said the Deputy Editor, "I'll have to refer you to St Laurent's Paris office". "I wasn't ringing about that." "If you're inquiring about the pink stilettos," said the

Deputy Editor, "they're £195 ... "Actually, it's the electrical fittings and the blue cables," said the voice. "You can just see them at the extreme edges of the shot." The Deputy Editor removed the phone from his ear and

looked at it for a few

minutes. "I work for the company that makes them," the voice continued relentlessly. "And I just wondered if I could have a copy of the picture for my files". He giggled. "You must think I'm a real pervert ..."

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# Dalgety shares soar as Nestlé pays £715m for pet-food arm

Dalgety, the troubled foods group, yesterday took the City by surprise with the sale of its Spillers pet-food business to Nestlé for £715m, in a dramatic strategic U-turn. Andrew Yates reports that Dalgety's shares soared as the market looked forward to the return of £650m to shareholders.

The sale of the Winalot and Felix pet-foods business to Nestlé of Switzerland delighted the market and the shares leapt 49.5p to 343p.

The decision marks the end of the group's 19-year battle against the Mars-owned Pedigree pet-foods and the reversal of the plan by Richard Clothier, the group's previous chief executive, who had hoped to create a powerful player in the highly competitive European pet-food market.

The company claimed the sale followed an "irresistible" offer from Nestlé. "We've got tomorrow's price today," Ken Hanna, the chief executive, said.

Dalgety is now preparing to pay out £650m to long-suffering shareholders because of the

Next month's Budget

will focus on making

loopholes for the well-

off. But demands for

spending will not be

satisfied. Diane Coyle,

Andrew Verity report.

additional government

Economics Editor, and

Additional welfare-to-work

measures will form the centre-

piece of next month's Budget,

including changes to national

insurance and the introduction

of a tax credit for low-paid

At the same time the Bud-

get will crack down firmly on tax

loopholes currently exploited by

both companies and wealthy in-

dividuals. Geoffrey Robinson,

the Treasury minister at the cen-

tre of controversy about his own

offshore tax arrangements, is

expected to be moved to an-

Alongside the Budget's em-

phasis on welfare reform, Gor-

don Brown, the Chancellor,

will affirm his determination to

stick to tough spending plans.

A plea by the Trade Unions

Congress (TUC) this morning

for an extra £3.3hn of expen-

diture on increased benefits and

priority spending areas such as

chairman of the Government-

appointed task force on reform-

ing the tax and benefit systems.

said he would be recommend-

ing a variant of the American

inforce the work ethic by chan-

fall largely on deaf ears.

other job after the Budget.

and on closing tax

work pay for low earners

**Budget to focus** 

on welfare to

work reforms

pet-food windfall. It also achieved a much higher price for Martin Brower, the US distribution business that supplies McDonald's, which was sold to Reyes, a private American group, for £120m.

The latest sales mean that Dalgety has raised £1.2bn from disposals in the last few months. The deals follow hot on the heels of the £360m sale of its ingredients business to Kerry, the Irish food group.

Mr Clothier expressed sadness at the break-up of the business yesterday. "After it sold its Australian operations Dalgety was always looking for a reason to exist," he said. "We got close."

Mr Clothier, who resigned from Dalgety last year after the group issued two profits warnings in two months, justified his decision to buy the Quaker petfoods business. "Without it. the Spillers business would have been a distant third in European pet-foods. "

But he said the management had achieved a good price for the pet-foods operation, in which Dalgety invested more than £100m in the three years since the acquisition.

The sale could threaten the jobs of the 1,500 workers employed by Spillers in the UK. However, Dalgety, which recently laid off 600 staff at the business, believes Nestlé is not

nelling top-up income to the

low paid through pay packets.

Budget would not simply copy

tirely on a tax rebate without

any benefit payment such as

Britain's existing Family Credit

There had been real concern

that replacing Family Credit en-

tirely with a tax credit would

take money away from women

and children and put it into

Commons' social security com-

mittee that his task force did not

regard a "big bang" integration

of tax and benefits as necessary

or desirable. He argued that a

tax credit could have "important psychological effects on the way people feel about work".

The full report of the task

force, due to be published

around the same time as the

Budget, is expected to be re-

Mr Taylor told the House of

men's pay packets.

But he indicated that the

planning further redundancies. City observers believe the deal could be held up for. months due to close scrutiny by the competition authorities. Nestlé, which sells pet-food brands such as Gourmet, will

control more than a quarter £5bn European pet-foods business. It will also sell about one in every three tins of pet-food sold in the UK. Analysts believe that it could be forced to sell several brands but the deal is unlikely to be blocked completely. Its market share will still be well short of Mars, which sells twofifths of all pet-food in Europe.

If the deal goes ahead, shareholders will receive £250m by June, with the balance of £400m in the following year.

Dalgety has now sold three of its five main divisions in an effort to reduce debts and shore up its balance sheet.

It is left with PIC, the world's leading pig breeding business, which it intends to grow rapidly. However, it is still lumbered with a troubled agricultural supplies division which has been hit by the slump in the demand for cattle feed brought on by the BSE crisis. The group has been forced to write down the value of the business by a half to £60m and analysts believe it will be sold as soon as profits show signs of improvement.

There was new evidence

booming. It came as the

yesterday that service

industries are still

Bank of England's

Committee started

question of whether to

raise interest rates this

wrestling with the

week. Diane Coyle,

edge decision.

Economics Editor,

reports on the knife-

The vast majority of City

pundits expect the MPC to

cheer home-buyers by leaving

the cost of borrowing

unchanged at 7.25 per cent to-

day. But the closeness of the call

was highlighted by a new survey

**Monetary Policy** 



Expansion plans: Dalgety now plans to focus on PIC, the world's leading pig breeding busin

Services boom could tip knife-edge rate decision

meant that only 8 per cent of the

companies surveyed were able

The Chartered Institute of to increase the prices they

#### DALGETY'S DEALS

1994: Sells off some of its US food distribution operations for £86m, acquires Spanish petfoods business

Quaker Oats for £442m. Sells a number of consumer food brands including Golden

cooking sauces in a £300m deal 1998: January – sells its food ingredients business to Ireland's Kerry Group for £360m; February - disposes of pet foods division, including Spillers, to Nestle for £715m;

Holdings for £120m; promises to return £650m to shareholders Future: an agricultural feed busines

which will probably be sold; the Pig Improvement Company, which supplies genetically improved breeding stock to pig producers.

## **Matthew** Clark fails to find a buyer

Matthew Clark, the troubles cider company that includes Diamond White and Dry Black thorn, has failed to attract a buyer despite an attempt to encourage takeover interest. The news raises doubts about the group's future, according to City sources.

Several drinks groups are be lieved to have run a slide rule over Matthew Clark after being encouraged to make an approach. HP Bulmer, the UK's leading cider maker and Matthew Clark's main rival, is understood to have had a serious look at the business, despite potential concerns from competition authorities that a deal would give it a monopoly over the cider market.

However, Bulmer is under stood to have been reluctant to launch a bid as it did not see the merit in adding new brands to its extensive portfolio, which in cludes Strongbow and Woodpecker. It also had concerns about Matthew Clark's trading prospects. The group is still losing market share to Bulmer.

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27/ SEC. TEC

Pernod-Ricard, the French drinks giant, has also considered making an offer. But it too has ruled out an offer according to industry sources.

Matthew Clark has been hit by the slump in the cider market and the growing popularity of alternative drinks such as

It has launched a £10m advertising campaign designed to reverse falling sales of its main brands but so far the result have been very disappointing

Matthew Clark's problems came to a head last December when it revealed intering profits fell nearly a little to £17.7m. The group also warned full year profits would fall below expectations outcry from some institutional shareholders who called for Peter Aikens, the group's chief executive, to step down.

Matthew Clark's Share price has plummeted from a high as 801p in 1996 to 166.5p, valuing the group at just £147m.

Cider makers' troubles have raised the prospect of further consolidation in the sector. Last year Merrydown, the Sussex was in takeover talks.

1995: Buys Spilters petfoods from

Wonder crisps and Homepride

service industries, which make

up two-thirds of the economy,

surveys purchasing managers

This reflected very strong em-

ployment growth, which al-

lowed companies to expand

capacity and cut down on their

"Increased demand for suit-

able staff again led to a further

rise in wages and salaries in

eral, added: "There are no sig-

nificant signs of growth slowing."

did decline during the month,

falling to the lowest level since

Peter Thomson, director gen-

However, business optimism

The report commented:

backlog of work.

grew even faster in January.

sells US distribution business Martin-Brower to Reyes

suggesting that activity in the the survey began 19 months ago. raise rates this week as an in- in London yesterday, and part-In addition, stiff competition surance policy against the remaining inflationary dangers.

Purchasing and Supply, which charged customers. "The outlook for inflation is better than each month, reported a rise in it was last year," Mr Thomson its activity index from 57.6 in said. In addition, the rate at the inflation target," he said. December to 58.6 in January. which new business grew slowed The results of the survey -

which is relatively new and untested but is also one of the few available indicators of what is going on in services as opposed to manufacturing - left analysts divided about how fast the economy will slow this year. For the contrast between service industries enjoying boom conditions and manufacturing flirting with outright recession

David Hillier at Barclays Capital said the MPC should

could scarcely be greater.

"One more rise would send a clear message to employers and employees at a vital time in the pay round that earnings growth will not be allowed to threaten

wise for the MPC to refrain. from tightening policy until there are stronger and more convincing signs of rising price pressures," he said. Hopes that the Bank of Eng-

land will choose this course were boosted by the expectation yesterday that neither America's Federal Reserve Board nor Germany's Bundesbank would increase their interest rates.

The Fed lived up to this hope by announcing no change after the financial markets had closed

Central bankers in the leading advanced economies are sensitive to the potential impact of the Asian crisis, and the Fed

way through the MPC's two-day

deliberation. The Bundesbank

Council meets this morning.

in particular is expected not to But Simon Briscoe at Nikko increase US interest rates until due to poor pre-Christinas prope disagreed. "It would be the economic spillovers are trading. The figures prompted an clearer and the financial markets in the Far East have sta-Officials from European and

> Asian countries meeting in London to prepare for the summit of EU and APEC ministers in early April are likely to issue a statement on their assessment of the crisis today. Asia will also be the main item on the agenda when finance ministers and central bank governors cider maker, announced that it from the G7 countries meet in London later this month.

## **Buffett caught up** in silver price row

flected in the measures announced by the Chancellor. Mr Taylor also told the committee his group regarded the introduction of an income tax starting rate of 10p in the pound "almost as a given", as it had been a long-term Labour manifesto commitment.

However, the Chancellor's determination to keep government borrowing on a downward path means the TUC's proposals for billions in extra spending are unlikely to be accepted.

health and education is likely to The TUC argued that most of this could be financed by spending the £2.8bn remaining Yesterday Martin Taylor, in the contingency reserve for 1998/99, but it would be very unusual - and considered most imprudent by the Treasury - to allocate all of the reserve at the system which is designed to restart of the financial year. Outlook, page 21

Warren Buffett, arguably the world's most famous investor, was plunged into controversy last night after it emerged that a commodity trader which is fighting allegations of manipulation of the silver market brokered deals for the US billionaire.

Silver prices yesterday hit a 10-year high yesterday after Mr Buffett revealed be held 20 per cent of the world's annual silver supply. The surprise announcement sparked copycat buying across the globe.

Mr Buffett added that his purchases had been sourced through a single brokerage. But it was only last night that Phibro, the commodity trading arm of Salomon Smith Barney, admitted it was the broker in question.

Last month, Lovell & Stewart, the law firm, filed a class action lawsuit against Phibro, alleging the company had manipulated prices in the silver market. The allegations are denied by the company, and the New York Mercantile Exchange said there was "absolutely no basis" for the claims.

Silver prices have risen by 65 per cent since Berkshire Hathaway, Mr Buffett's company. began buying silver since last summer. In London yesterday. silver was trading at around \$7 an ounce (£4.40), valuing Mr

Buffett's holding at \$910m.

Dubbed the "Oracle of Omaha", Mr Buffett has gained an almost legendary status among small investors. However, analysis warned



Warren Buffett: Sparked a rise in silver to 10-year high

that further increases in the silver price could trigger a price collapse, with the sale of substantial off-market silver holdings. Wiktor Bielski of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell reckons 70 per cent of the world's silver supply could be held off-market. The Bank of England vesterday said it was monitoring the situation. - Lea Paterson

Outlook, page 21

## Atlantic Gas sells customer list to Northern Electric

Atlantic Gas, the controversial company which charged people a £30 up-front fee to guarantee the cheapest fuel deal, has sold its database of 40,000 customers to Northern Electric. In a deal revealed last night,

Atlantic has also become a gas marketing agent for Northern Electric although the Manchester-based company's doorstep sales force has stopped charging people in ad-

Tim Mulcahy, a 36-year-old who brought over the Atlantic concept from Canada, said Northern Electric had paid "less than £1m" for the customers.

The 40,000 households will

but only if they stay with no profits for shareholders." Northern Electric for a year. Atlantic was investigated by Ofgas, the industry watchdog,

and no direct action was taken. Ofgas subsequently changed the regime so that existing gas companies could not take over new Atlantic customers who had paid a fee in advance, though the new rules did not apply to

existing customers. Mr Mulcahy yesterday insisted that Atlantic had not profited from the venture, aithough the company is believed. to have raised about £1m

through customer payments. We're making a loss out of

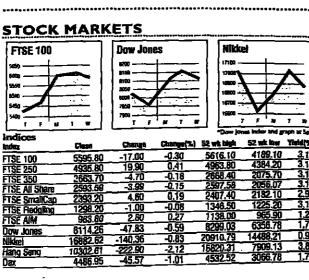
Atlantic had caused controversy, but said it was "willing to but the company did not come in to deal with a difficult operate as a licensed supplier situation." An Ofgas spokesman said

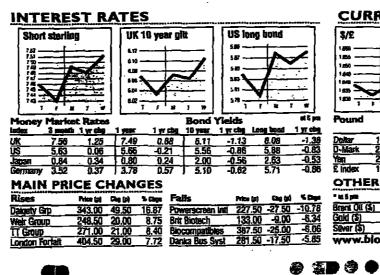
"Our concern was that people who signed up would get their money back and it does appear that this will happen." However Neil Lambert

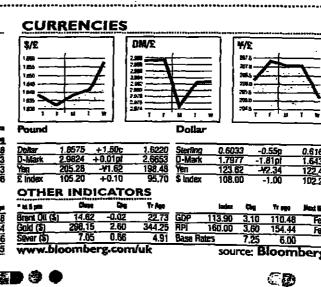
Northern Electric admitted

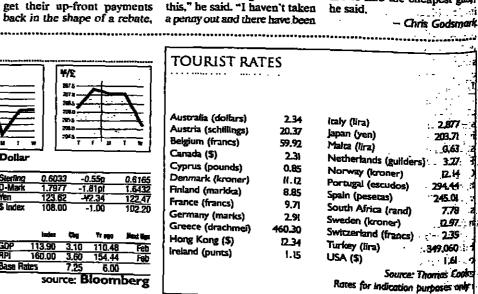
commercial director of rival supplier Calortex, said he had also been approached by Atlantic and had thrown the of fer document in the bin.

They were taking advantage of the most vulnerable custon tomers. They didn't need to pay £30 to find the cheapest gas,?









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OUTLOOK

# Sage of Omaha gets a bit of the Bunker mentality

21/BUSINESS

Warren Buffett makes an unlikely Nelson Bunker Hunt, the last man who tried to corner the silver market. Even so, the Sage of Ohmaha's disclosure that he has amassed 20 per cent of the world's supplies of the Cinderalla metal had a predictably electrifying effect yesterday. The London silver price fix was set at its highest level in nearly a decade after shooting through \$7 an ounce on the back of overnight Far East trading. As sure as night follows day, copycat buyers will be lured into the market on the basis that what's good for Berkshire Hathaway must be good

The Buffett explanation of this \$550m buying spree is as homespun as his investment philosophy. Demand for silver is out of kilter with supply and therefore the best way to rectify this imbalance is to get the silver price up. Berkshire Hathaway has certainly achieved that, helped by the absence of bothersome disclosure requirements. Since it started buying last July, the price has risen from \$4.30 a troy ounce to a close of \$7.05 yesterday. Mr Buffett is now sitting on just short of 130m ounces of the stuff.

The finger of suspicion for the price rise was already pointing at the New York trading firm Phibro, an arm of Travelers Group, the financial services giant in which Mr Buffett also has a large position. As it transpired, Phibro was dealing on Mr Buffett's behalf.

Comparisons with the extraordinary exploits of Nelson Bunker Hunt and his brother William Herbert Hunt in the late 1970s are grossly misleading, however. Together the Hunts set out to manipulate the market deliberately, buying more than one billion ounces of silver on the New York Cornex mar-

ket - the equivalent of two years' demand -

and stashing it in a warehouse in Wilmington. The tactic worked, driving the price up to from \$7 to \$50, until Comex stepped in to place limits on the amount that could be delivered in any month. The bubble burst, the price collapsed and the Hunts were banned from trading on US commodity exchanges after selling off all their racehorses to pay a \$10 fine.

Berkshire Hathaway's exposure is tiny by comparison, amounting to less than 2 per cent of its investment portfolio. Which may be just as well since the silver market can be notoriously volatile. Production costs are negligible, since 75 per cent of mined silver is the by-product in the mining of other metals, such as gold. With the gold price at an 18-year low, a surge in supply looks unlikely.

But demand is not that buoyant either. The Indians, who account for 15 per cent of world consumption, have left the market almost entirely and may be about to start selling what silver they have for gold now that the wedding season is on the horizon. Mr Buffett is not known for picking losers. But those who are tempted to follow his example should bear in mind that the laws of price elasticity suggest silver is near its peak and that when the correction comes, it is likely to be violent.

#### No halfway house for Brown's benefit

Strange but true. Princess Margaret would once have qualified for lone family benefit. David Blunkett could have claimed

life time income support from the state on account of his blindness. Why even Gordon Brown, the chancellor, who is blind in one eye as a result of a rugby accident, would qualify for some form of benefit if he chose to register his disability. The fact that none of these three have taken their entitlement doesn't mean that others in similar circumstances don't.

The social security budget is the largest part of Government spending accounting for more than 30 per cent of the total; despite falling unemployment, it continues to grow like topsy in cash terms, lone parent benefit, sick and disability pay being the fastest growing elements. Total spending on unemployment may be on the wane, but there are pockets which remain immune to the upswing in the economy. In Britain, the percentage of households where nobody works, at one in five, is higher than almost any other developed country in the world, including Germany and France, where general levels of unemployment are much worse. Getting these people off benefit and

back to work is Labour's big challenge. Gordon Brown is determined to tackle it head on in his first full scale Budget next month. Obviously it can't all be done in one go and in any case, one key element of Labour's approach to the problem is implementation of the minimum wage which is still some distance off. All the same, we can expect a whole raft of tax and benefit reforms which push strongly towards this holy grail of social and economic policy objectives. There are still some sacred cows left, a basic state pen-

sion for all being one, but not many. The big mistake of previous Labour ad-

ministrations has been to give way to social pressures and greatly increase spending the moment they are swept to power. Inevitably this has been followed by economic crisis and sharp cuts as these governments matured. The consequences have then be suffered at the ballot box. That's plainly not going to happen this time round. If there's any leaway in the public finances, it will be held in reserve for use ahead of the next election.

But reform of our system of social welfare is something else. One of the reasons why the US has such low unemployment and is pushing towards a balanced budget is that in the US there is virtually no welfare provision at all. If you want to live, you have to work. Is this really the way Labour wants to go? Obviously not. Even for New Labour, this would be socially and politically unacceptable. The trouble is that in an efficiently functioning free market system, there may be no half way houses. Certainly Mr Brown is going to struggle to find them.

#### Keep politicians' hands off lottery

The shambles of Oflot and its directorgeneral, Peter Davis, is inevitably prompting renewed calls for industry regulators to be made more accountable to the Government and Parliament. But let's not be too hasty here. The Government is hop-

tion some time this spring and few would argue with the need for reform.

Removing the cult of personality from these regulators and placing power in the hands of suitably qualified panels of experts is one obvious avenue of change. But it would also be highly dangerous to interfere with the underlying principle of this form of industry regulation - that it is entirely independent of Government.

Furthermore, anything resembling this would run counter to what Labour has done with the Bank of England. Few dispute the success of that initiative; for the first time in recent history policy is seen to be free of political interference. Credibility is enhanced and long term interest rates are falling accordingly.

Independence is as vital to utility regulation as it is to the conduct of monetary policy. Indeed to have it managed by politicians would be to fall into the very same trap of crony capitalism that has bedevilled the Far East. Just imagine it. Prices would be set for the purpose of getting reelected and investment would follow the pet projects and desires of the likes of John Prescott.

Our privatised utilities would lose the confidence of the capital markets, investment would fall or become more costly, and our infrastructre would be damaged accordingly.

By all means make utility regulation more accountable, transparent and open to challenge, but for heaven's sake don't give it back to the politicians.

# Shareholders grill Granada over directors' payments

Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman, was given a bumpy ride yesterday by shareholders angry with the board's acceptance of controversial payments in return for shorter contracts.

Although the company secured victory in all resolutions, institutional investors said its reputation had been tarnished. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a corporate governance row.

Shareholders attacked the board for allowing five directors to receive combined payments of £374,000 in return for having their service contracts in the event of a takeover reduced from three years to two.

lavestors queued up to launch stinging criticisms of the payments, with one demanding that they either be returned or donated to charity. Another accused Mr Robinson of "treating shareholders with contempt.". investors also lambasted

the board for awarding themselves large pay increases while pay for Granada workers had increased by just 3 per cent. They were responding to claims by a broadcasting trade union which had issued campaigning leaflets outside the auditorium in central London.

Mr Robinson responded with a charm offensive designed to win the audience over with a persuasive mixture of wit and diplomacy. And there was one



Gerry Robinson: Refused to say if he would donate the payments to charity

apology. "The thing I am very sorry about is that we have ended up with a lot of shareholders that feel strongly about it. I am genuinely sorry about that."

However, he refused to say if he would return the payments or donate them to charity. "That is a personal matter," he

He also refused to say the payments were wrong or undeserved. But he did admit that he would not have accepted the payments had he known the fuss they were going to cause.

He launched an attack on Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy which has been strongly critical of the payments. "One of the conse-

quences of this furore is that it drives people to be dishonest. We could have issued a special bonus or increased the salaries and not had a single question. We decided to be honest and we have been pilloried for it. I think it will drive companies to han-

dle it in an underhand way." However, the company secured victory in the main resolution that had aroused attention. This was the proposal to re-elect John Ashworth, a non-executive director who sits on the remuneration committee which agreed the payments. The result was 302 million votes in favour, 83 million against, with 50.8 million ab-

Some City institutions remained unhappy with the affair. There was clearly a misjudgement. And the question still remains. Why do you need to pay hard cash for something that may never happen?" one said.

Granada also issued a trading statement yesterday. It said the pattern of improvement seen in 1997 had continued in the first quarter of the new financial year.

Media and advertising revenue had grown strongly "and will improve more strongly during 1998" as the benefits of the combined selling in the Granada/Yorkshire-Tyne Tees and Border TV regions became more apparent.

#### Nomura meets watchdog to clear hurdles facing Energy takeover

Rover, the car giant, warned be in the first wave of moneits 350 biggest suppliers yesterday they would have to be tary union. capable of doing business with Mainland Europe now it in euros by the time the accounts for a third of Rover's total sales of 500,000 a year. Dr Walter Hasselkus,

single European currency comes into operation next Rover's chief executive, warned last year that the The message was spelt out group might have to reconat a conference of strategic sider its purchasing arrangesuppliers by Rover's purchasments if Britain stayed outside ing director, Jim Robinson, He monetary union over the long said that from 1 January 1999 Rover, now owned by BMW of Other large UK compa-Germany, would be able to

Rover tells suppliers to be

ready to deal in euros

nies are also gearing up for the handle all supplier relations in euro. Marks & Spencer is euros. This may result in converting all its tills to take suppliers having to bill Rover the currency and Siemens, which has a £1bn computer in euros. Rover's annual component chip plant in the North-east, bill is £4bn and although all is asking its 150 biggest UK but 15 per cent of its supplies suppliers to deal in euros. are sourced in Britain, well – Michael Harrison over half of its total production is now exported, the

bulk of it to the continental ment bank considering launch-European countries that will ing a bid for Energy Group, has met with the electricity watchdog, Offer, in the hope of clearing regulatory hurdles to launch a full-scale takeover

stentions.

At the meeting earlier this week Nomura is believed to have told Offer that it would inject a substantial chunk of its own cash into a new company created to buy Energy Group, scotching fears that the vehicle would carry an excessive debt

Industry sources said the bank had emphasised that its bid would result in less debt for Energy Group, which owns Eastern Electricity, than with the £4.06bn offer launched by PacifiCorp of the US on Tuesday.

Nomura, the Japanese invest-

Nomura's emerging bid plans are thought to involve the company injecting at least \$2bn (£1.3bn) of equity into the

Last week Nomura revealed it would split up Energy Group and ultimately return Eastern Electricity to the stock market as a separate company, a move which is expected to please the industry regulator.

PacifiCorp was cleared to bid for Energy Group by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last December, but has argued that ruling was specific to the Oregon-based utility and did not mean other rival bids had also been given the green

The new bid would leave PacifiCorp with almost £10bn

# Chrysalis is outbid by rivals in battle for Melody Radio

The auction for Melody Radio has turned into a two-horse race between Scottish Radio and Emap. Chrysalis, the media programmer chaired by entrepreneur Chris Wright, has lost out in the battle for the easy listening station.

Chrysalis has been outbid by its two competitors, according to industry sources. "Chrysalis have privately accepted they are unlikely to get Melody as the price has gone too high," said one City

Melody has attracted widespread interest from a host of even higher, with some

radio operators since being put up for sale by Hanson, the building products group.

However, the bidding war has pushed the price sky high and has left just two companies in the hunt. GWR, the west of England radio operator, also pulled out of the bidding for the station last

Melody was originally predicted to fetch around £20m, but those expectations soon escalated to £25m.

Analysts now believe that the final price tag could rise

putting the final figure over £30m. Chrysalis is believed to have put in an aggressive bid for the radio station, but even that has turned out to be too low to capture Melody.

Whoever buys Melody will have to pay through the nose," said one media analyst yesterday. Chrysalis is keen to ex-

pand its radio business and is also in the running for the huge radio franchise in the North-west which is due to be awarded in the next few days. However, it faces stiff

competition from most of the

big players in the industry in its bid for the licence, which is the biggest outside London. Hanson received three firm

bids last week from Emap and Scottish Radio last week. It is expected to announce the buyer within the next two The high price on offer for

Melody has surprised industry followers. Its mainly older listeners are less attractive to ad-Analysts estimate that the

business has annual revenues of just £5m.

- Andrew Yates

# The Interest Free Time Machine

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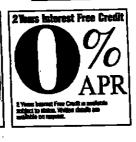


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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Chris Godsmark

#### **Dalgety brings** home the bacon

Dalgety has been a corporate disaster story. A ragbag of disparate businesses, it has stumbled along from one crisis to another over the last few years.

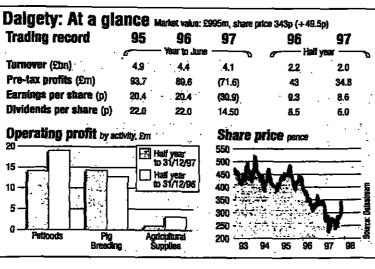
But yesterday it stunned the City by actually announcing some good news. Its new management have done the sensible thing and sold off almost everything in sight. The disposal of the pet food business for what can only be described as a very fancy price and the promise to give shareholders £650m from its £1.2bn sales proceeds is a far cry from last summer, when the group looked on its last legs after two profit warnings in quick succession. No wonder the shares leapt 49.5p to 343p

Dalgety's pet food business has been a dog's dinner for years. a value of around 365p. Desperate for an acquisition, it paid way over the odds for Quaker's pet food business three years ago. However, the £715m sale price is more than it could have dreamed of for a division which is making an operating profit of just £30m a year.

So how do you value what is left of the group? The break-up rendered yesterday's results for the six months to December, which showed a fall in pre-tax profits to £34.8m (£43m), virtually meaningless.

profits from the pig breeding business. which is now Dalgety's prize asset, should rise to around £25m this year. and £30m next. Given that Dalgety is a world leader in this field and its rivals are trading at around 25 times earnings, the division probably deserves a premium rating. Applying a cautious multiple of 17 times earnings, the business is worth perhaps 120p-125p a

After the disposal, the group will



hand back 224p a share to investors, and have £70m in the bank, equivalent to another 24p. Adding all that up gives

The shares should trade at a small discount for the fact that shareholders will not get all their cash for three or bring in plenty of new retailers willing proved in the second half as managefour months at least. Even so, there to pay higher rents. And its empty units looks scope for some upside in the share price and, if Dalgety can extract itself from its dire agricultural feeds, business then it will begin to look good

#### **CSC** thrives in Analysis believe that operating out-of town sites

Shoppers may not be flocking to the high street but results from Capital Shopping Centres (CSC) suggest they are heading for out-of-town shopping

By building up a formidable portfolio of shopping complexes, CSC has been able to cash in on the strong consumer spending and sharply rising rents. Pre-tax profits were up a third

to £77.4m., and net assets per share leapt 27 per cent to 391.5p, well ahead

of market expectations of 380p. The City is also impressed by the 10 per cent turnover of tenants, which suggests that CSC has been able to represent just a half a per cent of total

There is a fear that CSC relies too heavily on a few centres which could be vulnerable if consumer spending begins to fall. The Lakeside, Thurrock and the MetroCentre, Gateshead account for almost 70 per cent of its property portfolio. But when Braehead, the £285m development on the site of former Clydeside shipyards, opens in the spring 1999, the dominance of the two main sites will be reduced.

Government planning restrictions could limit further acquisition opportunities. However, that serves to make CSC's existing sites all the more valuable and the group also has scope to increase the size of many of its centres in the medium term.

The strong results prompted analysts to raise profit forecasts for 1998 by of a bid. Risky, but worth a punt.

£3.5m to £83.5m and pushed the shares up 4.5p to 444p. With net asset value per share forecast at 445p this year and 520p next, CSC still looks good value.

#### Marginal success at Nightfreight

Put good management into a bad business, so the saying goes, and the business usually wins. Nightfreight's new management team are hoping to be the exception to the rule. Installed last May after the parcel carrier had issued its umpteenth profits warning, chairman David Cobb and chief executive Ron Sullivan are trying hard to turn the business around.

Contrary to the grim impression given by yesterday's full-year results, which showed pre-tax profits dropping 30 per cent to £3.77m, they appear to be succeeding. Margins in both the parcels and the logistics divisions imment concentrated on cutting costs.

The long-term aim is to get group margins back to around the 9 per cent level they were in 1995. In 1997, they were just above 4 per cent. To achieve this, Nightfreight is doing things like using postcodes instead of the old county boundaries to route its parcels.

That said, there is still a lot to be done. Amazingly, the company owns half its truck fleet even though leasing deals are more attractive than ever. Gearing, though falling, remains over 100 per cent.

With such a desperate history behind it, investors will want to see results before sinking any more cash into Nightfreight. But on a multiple of just seven times house broker Panmure Gordon's 1997 earnings forecast, the shares, up 2p yesterday to 32.5p, can hardly go any lower, and there is always the chance

## Shares lift as Reuters hits back in Bloomberg inquiry

Reuters, the financial information group, yesterday ended its silence over the criminal inquiry into its US subsidiary in an attempt to placate its shareholders, who have seen the company's stock fall by one-fifth in the past fortnight.

Reuters' shares staged a recovery even though the company's explanation shed little light on the affair.

Peter Thai Larsen reports.

Federal prosecutors are currently investigating Reuters Analytics, the US subsidiary which collects and distributes data on US bonds, about its alleged use of information owned by Bloomberg, the rival information group. The company had on any aspect of the case.

The silence has led to a frenzy of speculation, with reinformation in its own products and that it had hacked into its rival's central computer in order to steal computer code. Reuters yesterday confirmed

that Reuters Analytics was being investigated about a deal with a consultant in New York who subscribed to information from Bloomberg. The inquiry is looking at whether the consultant was encouraged to pass the Bloomberg information on to Reuters, and whether Reuters incorporated that data into its

own products.

previously refused to comment said it "has no knowledge of any such activity".

The company also insisted that, on its current information. ports from the US alleging that it would not have to withdraw Reuters had used Bloomberg's any of its products. Analysis had suggested that Renters might have to withdraw its new Reuters 3000 product, which combines information and analytical tools, if it contained stolen information.

However, the announcement said that the current investigation will be extended to "other individuals and entities outside Reuters Analytics". A spokesman refused to elaborate on the statement.

Reuters shares finished the day up 40p to 560p as investors welcomed the information. They However, the company have fallen from 636p since news claimed that prosecutors were of the investigation broke. investigating attempts to break Earlier in the day, several influinto the Bloomberg central ential analysts had recommendcomputer in order to steal its ed buying the shares, arguing that. rival's code. Moreover, Reuters the share price fall was overdone.

#### Overseas 'white knight' could rescue Argos

ride to the rescue of Argos, the Littlewoods is not thought to catalogue retailer battling against a hostile £1.6bn takeover bid from Great Universal Stores.

A long list of potential suitors included Kingfisher and a string He pointed out that La Redoute quite like to see it stay indeof continental retailers such as had just made a big acquisition Otto Versand and Quelle of in office supplies in France, Germany and La Redoute of while Otto Versand is a private said Argos might have attrac-France, "It is more likely to be company that tends to be very tions to other bidders. Argos an overseas operator looking to Among potential UK suitors,

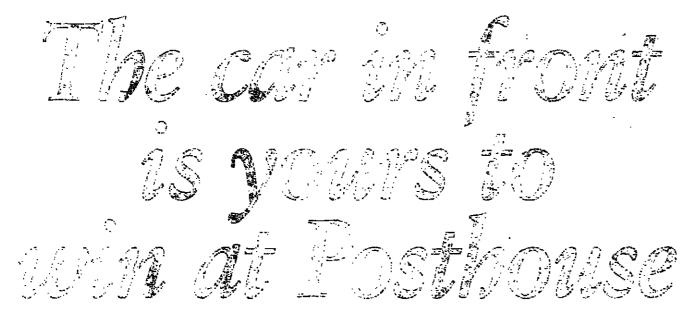
have sufficient funds. "I regard a white knight as extremely unlikely," said John conclusion. Richards of NatWest Securities.

wary of expensive deals. "No one move into the UK," said Mark else can offer quite the GUS ca-Josephson of Panmure Gordon. pability on mail order," he said. 3p higher to 765p. Analysts suggest GUS may

City analysts are divided over Kingfisher is considered highly need to raise its offer price by whether a "white knight" will unlikely to enter the fray and another 10 per cem from 570p to 620p-630p to be successful. But some institutional investors say the bid is far from a foregone

One fund manager said: "I'd pendent. It has been quite successful over the years." Another shares closed 5p lower yesterday at 625p. GUS shares edged - Nigel Cope

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Arst for all the right resears

#### Monsoon valued at £350m ahead of flotation

Shares in Monsoon, the women's fashion retailer which is seeking a stock market listing, are expected to be priced at around 195p-200p today, valuing the company at £350m-£360m. Some analysts had suggested that recent volatility in the retail sector and pressure from institutions might force Monsoon's advisers to cut the price. But the rise in retail shares following the GUS bid for Argos has boosted sentiment. SG. Securities has said the shares should be avoided above 150p due to concerns over store expansion. But the company says it already has new sites agreed up until May 1999.

#### London rethinks gas plans

London Electricity is to abandon its joint venture with Total, the French oil group, in the domestic gas market. The company, called London Total Energy, is expected to be wound up within days, with London concentrating on selling gas to its existing electricity customers in the South-east. Some 9,000 customers signed up in the South-west in the first trial of domestic competition will have their contracts passed over to Northern Electric.

#### German production up

Industrial production in Germany rose 0.6 per cent in December, with robust growth in manufacturing more than compensating for weakness in energy and mining. Construction expanded during the month but has been very volatile. Yearon-year growth of manufacturing output climbed to 5.8 from 5 per cent in November, confirming the health of the recovery.

#### ECB monitor launched

A new initiative to scrutinise the European Central Bank after the start of the single currency is launched today by a group of experts from several European Union countries. The monitoring group is being established by the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research.

#### Merit-based pay on the rise

High-flying employees will continue to receive bigger salaries than most of their colleagues as individual performance-related pay increases, according to research published today by the Institute of Personnel and Development. The survey found 59 per cent of companies used merit rises and bonuses and other incentives and that fewer than one in 10 intended to drop such schemes within the next two years.

#### FBS offers Barclays deal

Fidelity Brokerage Services UK (FBS-UK), the stock-broking firm, is to offer around 45,000 clients the opportunity to transfer their business to Barclays. FBS-UK, which is closing down, is writing to clients this week. But FBS-UK clients are under no obligation to switch their business to Barclays.

#### SBC wins merger go-ahead

Shareholders of the Swiss Bank Corporation last night approved the bank's plans to merge with rival UBS. The linkup will lead to 13,000 job cuts world-wide, with around 3,000 in London. UBS shareholders approved the deal on Tuesday.

COMPANY	p			
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Capital Shopping (F)	150.6m (133.0m)	77.4m (58.4m)	15,3p (11.8p)	9.25p (8.25p
Dalgety (1)	2 (11bm (2.19bm)	34.8m (43 0m)	8.6p (9.3p)	6.0p (8.5p)
Games Workstep (I)	31.67m (27.61m)	4.82m (4.8m)	10 To (9.7p)	3.3p (2.6p)
Gardinar Econy (F)	98.07m (96.67m)	3.7m (4.37m)	Z19p (2.62p)	1.0p (0.95p)
landinarie interiors (F)	4 89m (1.75m)	-0.191m (0.074m)	-1.73p (0.44p)	
Nightirelgts (F)	88 25m (81,23m)	3.02m (5.01m)	4 16p (6 7p)	1.8p (3 5Sp)
Seacon Holdings (F)	18.78m (19.47m)	0.385m (0.658m)	1.31p (2.1p)	1.25p (2.2p)

#### Management buys out IFAs' electronic . quote system

The future of the electronic quotation system used by thousands of independent financial advisers (IFAs) has been secured after the firm's management succeeded in a bid to launch a management buyout (MBO). The Exchange, as the company is known, will today announce it has secured backing for an MBO from Apax, the venture capital group. It was previously owned by US telecoms giant AT&T and Origo, the consortium of insurance groups.

The Exchange provides 8,500 IFA's around the country with instant quotes for a range of life insurance and pension products from over 50 insurance groups. It has revolutionised the insurance industry by removing the need for IFAs to go through the lengthy process of obtaining quotes from different companies every time they want to sell a product.

In a product.

The buyout will please IFAs, who had worried that The Exchange's independence would be threatened if it fell into the hands of a larger group. A number of technology companies are thought to have been interested. The group has grown rapidly since it was set up with a small user base in 1991 and made revenues of £14m last year. The system is currently accessed 12,000 times a day.

However, the MBO is likely to trigger an influx of competition into the market. The Exchange previously had an effective monopoly as insurance companies had no incentive to work with other information providers since they had a stake in the business.

In response, the management team, led by the managing director Paul Lindsey, aim to widen the range of products offered. They also plan a £5m investment to improve access to the information. This will be done by converting the system to a private internet-type system. known as an extranet, which IFAs can access from a browser installed on their computers.

Mr Lindsey estimates the Exchange's system has helped cut the price of insurance products by dramatically reducing the cost of obtaining a series of quotes. The company is trying to convince the insurance companies to introduce a system & which will allow customers to complete a proposal form online, further speeding up the application process for products. - Peter Thal Larsen



DEREK PAIN

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After seven days of takeover- near their peaks but eased with 152.5p and Barratt Developsearch for the next corporate and Rentokil 0,75p to 296.75p.

marauders continued unabated. riage which is attracting some to 5,595.8. At one time it was of the more alert stock mar- off 42.2. ket minds involves two aggressive groups - Compass, the and nagging worries that the contract caterer, and Rentokil Monetary Policy Committee Initial, the environmental and property group.

of BET nearly two years ago. take the edge off blue chips. Compass has indulged in a string of more modest acqui- concentrated on second-liners sitions. The two could make a with the Midcap index up 19.9 Sir Clive Thompson, Rento- the peak hit in October. The Asian upset. kil's chief executive, is keen to

spread into catering. Capitalised at £8.5bn, Rentokil is by far the larger of so long the great unloved, stole pable story that more con-

inspired excitement, blue chips the rest of the stock market, paused for breath although the Compass slipping 7p to 790p

Footsie's record-breaking One possible Footsie mar- run ended with a 17 points fall

An uncertain New York could be tempted to lift interest rates today, as well as a little Rentokil's last major deal old fashioned profit-taking after was the controversial takeover the recent surge, combined to

Smallcap index rose 4.6 to 2,393.2, a new high.

ments 8.5p to 257p. Crest Nicholson rose 10.5p to 106.5p.

Since it arrived nearly four years ago Redrow has been a disappointing investment. The shares were floated at 135p; their peak was 177.5p, reached last year.

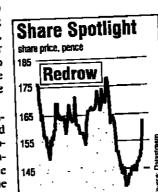
from the feeling that they have been oversold on the back of Asia's problems and Greig Middleton comments. sterling's strength. Weir, 20p to 248.5p; Laird 22p to 412.5p; and Spirax-Sarco, 32p to 601p. Much of the action was led the field. But engineer Beauford slumped 8p to 15p after warning profits would be splendid fit and it is thought points to 4,935.8, just 8 from hit by both the pound and the

Among blue chips Vodafone, 20.5p to 504p, enjoyed Builders and engineers, for support on the now unstop-

gaining 46p to 1,145p.

Other banks caught in the swirling clouds of takeover rumours included Royal Bank forming mideap, improving of Scotland (31p to 933p); Barclays (48p to 1,948p) and Stan-pet foods sale and the £650m dard Chartered (12p to 687p).

Reuters, under pressure Engineers again scored following a US investigation, recovered 40p to 560p and Pearson rose 13p to 807p on



Salomon Smith Barney gave ruffled by a share overhang. EMI a spin, nudging the softened 25p to 940p. shares 4.5p higher to 466p.

Dalgety was the best per-49.5p to 343p on the £715m earmarked for shareholders. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson sees the shares going to 400p.

BSkyB, helped by its results. rose 7p to 368p. A tax-efficient bed and breakfast deal in 21.48 million shares went through at a shade above 333p.

British Airways climbed 5p to 540.5p with Salomon suggesting a 635p target.

Scottish & Newcastle, the nation's biggest brewer, rolled out a 12.5p rise to .827.5p after meeting analysts but indications that Bass may be outbid for the Japanese owned InterContinental hotels chain by Ladbroke knocked the

The Camalot threesome were subdued with Cadbary Schweppes off 27p at 732p and De La Rue easing 25p to 359p; Racal Electronics held at 260p.

PSD, the recruitment group, rose 11.5p to 557.5p following a presentation at Killik. The stockbroker is forecasting profits of £8m for last year compared with £4.9m. For this year Killik suggests £9.5m, putting the shares on a prospective earnings multiple of 20.

TT, the conglomerate, moved ahead 21p to 271p. DKB and ABN Amro Hoare Govett said buy.

Jumbo International, the old Self Sealing Systems, gained 2p to 24.5p, reflecting recent director buying, and Emerald Energy, seeking oil in Colombia, was busily traded, gaining 0.5p to 8.5p after what

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Knox D'Arcy, the hands-on investment group, has taken a 14.1 per cent stake in Villiers, the engineer which plunged into the red last year. The £1.2m loss compared with profits of £153,000 in the previous year and £3m in 1995. Still Villiers is cash-rich and owns 20 per cent of Kern River, an oil group.

Lambert Howarth, the footwear group supplying Marks & Spencer, edged ahead 2.5p to 230p, highest since 1994. Year's profits are due next month and the company has forecast a "significant increase". There are suggestions that earnings per share will emerge at around 40p.

Market Link Publishing should produce profits of £900,000 this year and £1.25m next, believes stockbroker Teather & Greenwood. The

	_	Rentokil is by far the larger of the two companies and would probably be the vehicle for an		telecoms industry, and on the	145 - 145	broke put on 10p to 300p.	gaining 0.5p to 8.5p after what appeared to be an encourag- ing progress report.	Teather & Greenwood. The sbares are 54 54p.
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# How long before the jobs market pulls the inflation trigger?



DIANE **COYLE** ON SIGNALS THAT ARE

One of the thorniest questions Monetary Policy Committee as it decides what to do about interest rates this morning is just how tight the labour market has become. To put it in plain English, are there so few people available for jobs which employers want to fill that wages are going to start climbing faster? If so, it will be a pretty good sign that the monetary brakes need to be applied to the economy again.

FLASHING RED

This always seems insanely hawkish to anybody who looks around them and sees that there are still many unemployed people and so much poverty, but the real problem in economic policy is not how to expand demand for employees - that's easy. The trouble is that expanding the economy when the people without work cannot do the jobs on offer - because they do not have the skills or they live in the wrong part of the country - will trigger inflation. As we know from bitter experience in Britain, this harms long-term growth and productivity and penalises low earners and small savers. Matching the people to the jobs is a precondition for running the economy at lower interest rates.

Even though unemployment

Foreign Exchange Rates

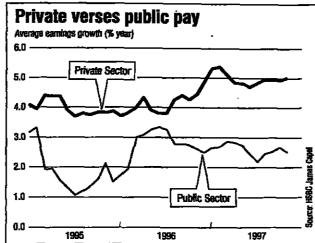
years of growth since the depths of the recession have soaked up the supply of labour that is both available and suitable.

Start with the anecdotal evidence. One JobCentre in Milton Keynes has acquired fame by announcing that it has three jobs for every person on its register seeking work. Throughout the South-east - which is, unfortunately, where the jobs are being created for the most part - it is plain that employers are having to fill low-paid jobs for cleaners and staff in fast-food joints with foreign students and immigrants.

Earlier this week a new survey of the construction industry by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply reported facing the Bank of England's shortages of almost every type of building worker imaginable, from brickies to the most skilled electricians. Other surveys have reported skill shortages - that is, worker shortages - in other industries from information technology to retailing.

Anecdotal evidence is not enough, however. What about the statistics? They have shown a modest pick-up in earnings growth as unemployment has declined. But most economists have been surprised and cheered by the fact that the fall in unemployment has been so great for so little acceleration in pay. In the 12 months to December the number of unemployment benefit claimants declined by about 470,000 - a jobless rate of just 5 per cent, or below what many experts would have considered to be "full" employment. Meanwhile, underlying average earnings growth climbed from 4.5 per cent in November 1996 to 4.75 per cent a year later.

Unfortunately both indicators are very flawed as measures of the tightness of the labour market, as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has indicated by its announcement earlier this week of improve-



count measure of unemployment has been distorted - or fiddied, if you prefer - by at least 10 changes to the benefit rules since 1979, all except one tending to reduce the headline jobless total. An alternative measure of unemployment is available, based on the Labour Force Survey rather than figures collected from benefit offices, which conforms to the international definition of unemployment as the number of people

work within the next two weeks. The two measures - the claimant count and the LFS measure - generally move in the same direction. When unemployment is high they are close together. When it falls they move apart, reflecting the fact that the drop in the LFS total is limited by the number of discouraged or marginal workers market. who start looking for work again during good times. The gap is now 500,000, about as high as it has ever been since the survey began.

seeking work and available to

Although a less distorted measure has been available, commentators have always focused on the claimant count. It is monthly, while the survey is published quarterly, and it is more up to date. In future the is still higher than in 1979, there ments to the published statistics ONS will publish a rolling three- spent some time discussing

Interest Rates

ment as measured by the survey, so although it will still lag behind it will provide new and more reliable information about how many people are finding work - or joining or withdrawing from the workforce - each month.

The statisticians are also

improving their presentation

of the earnings figures. In the past they have based each month's "underlying average million employees in Britain. earnings" on a three-month average of the past two actual figures and an estimate for next month. This bizarre method is to be replaced by a restrain ourselves in demanding rolling three-month average, which will simply smooth out volatile fluctuations in actual pay growth. This will mean figure gives a better guide to inflationary pressure in the jobs

The latest figures showed from April. underlying earnings growth picking up to 4.75 per cent, driven by both the booming service sector and the subdued manufacturing sector. This rate is at the border of what the Bank of consistent with meeting the inflation target.

The Monetary Policy Committee has, therefore, probably are real fears that the five-plus starting in April. The claimant month average of unemploy- whether the increase in earnings

growth reported last month will be sustained or even accelerate further. A worrying light is shed on this question if private and public sector pay are distinguished. The pay bill freeze in the public sector means growth in earnings is holding down the overall average. Private sector pay growth has climbed well past 5 per cent. according to City economists who calculate them separately. From April, the ONS will itself publish rates for private and

public sectors separately. What this means is that the mini-miracle that some spy in the recent performance of the UK jobs market - falling unemployment for almost no cost in terms of higher wage inflation - is at least partly a sleight of the statistical hand. The figures that have been put under the monthly spotlight in the past have exaggerated the favourable split between jobs and pay. More important, they have hidden the fact that the good news is the result of a public sector incomes policy. That affects some 6 million out of 22

Little wonder that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other ministers have been exhorting us all to pay rises for the sake of the long-term health of the economy. The silent incomes policy will not be sustainable if private fewer revisions, so each new sector pay pulls ever further ahead of public sector wages. The improved ONS figures will make the chasm plain to see

As for the Bank's decision today, burrowing into the labour market figures suggests that out of all the available inflation indicators they are flashing the most insistently England has said it thinks to be red. Upgrading the skills and aptitudes of the 1.9 million unemployed in order to move the metaphorical traffic lights much further back is a bigger task which does not impinge on today's interest rate decision.

Liffe Financial Futures

#### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



William Hague, the august leader of the Opposition, works out regularly at a gym in Dolphin Square in Pimlico, so I am informed by a local resident.

Originally, Mr Hague was to be seen first thing in the morning wearing a grey singlet, revealing his "puny shoulders", with his thengirlfriend Ffion "trailing two steps behind

him", according to my spy.

Now that he's spliced, Mr Hague has taken to wearing a T-shirt which covers up his musculature in the gym rather more effectively. And Ffion walks two steps in front. Whatever can it all mean?

Even the most lucrative of mega-mergers can have their inconvenient side effects, as Brian Cahill has found to his cost.

Mr Cahill is director of group legal services at Glaxo Wellcome, and as such was due to address a high-powered conference for the drugs industry in Brussels this Friday.

He was to have used the occasion, organised by City law firm Beachcroft Stanleys, to enlighten the audience as to the benefits of a single market for European phar-

Now the proposed £100bn merger with SmithKline Beecham has given Mr Cahill something rather more immediate to worry about. So he's pulled out.

The opening thus created has been filled by arch-rivals Zeneca, who have parachuted their director of government and economic affairs, Dr Jim Attridge, in to give the Brussels speech in Mr Cahill's place. It's an ill wind ...

You've all heard of the Nigel Lawson diet, which enabled our former Chancellor to shrink from a blimp to a greyhound, albeit a rather wrinkly one; now welcome the Colin Shar-

Industrial Metals

Mr Sharman, international chairman of accountants KPMG, revealed the secret of his shrinkage yesterday at a press conference to discuss KPMG's snail-like progress past the European competition authorities, as it seeks permission to merge with fellow beancounting leviathan Ernst & Young.

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Mr Sharman said he had lost one and a half stones since the merger plans were announced last May. The merger means he must commute weekly to the US and elsewhere to co-ordinate talks with the rest of the firm around the globe.

He said the only way he could handle all the transatiantic flying and resultant jet lag was by abstaining from all artificial stimulants. such as alcohol and coffee. He now practically lives on camomile tea, he said.

Doesn't complete abstinence seem a harsh price to pay, even for a merger? "It's for a limited period only," Mr Sharman replied, saying he would be able to quaff ales and slurp coffee to his heart's content once the merger went through.

This is pretty important, bearing in mind Mr Sharman owns his own vineyard, at his farm in Sussex. "As I said, it's a temporary gesture," the newly-svelte auditor concluded.

To the Savoy on Tuesday night, for an evening of gambling on the gee-gees in aid of the charity Action on Addiction.

The sparkling event, attended by the great and the good, was organised by the wife of Ian Strachan, boss of BTR.

Most of the evening was spent betting on old horse races shown on a large screen, while at the end there was an auction for various items like an afternoon in a box at Ascot. The

evening raised £66,000 in total. Spotted amongst the throng was David Telling, chairman of Mitie Group, the support services company.

Also spotted was Gerry Robinson of Granada, who did not stick his hand up at any point in the auction.

This was probably pretty smart of him, considering Mr Robinson was due to attend Granada's agm yesterday, where he faced stiff questioning from institutional shareholders about the pay-off he and other directors pocketed in return for reducing their severance pay entitlements.

ICN Pharmaceuticals, a giant American drugs group with five businesses in Russia, has just elected Andrei V Kozyrev, former minister for foreign affairs of Russia in 1990-96. to its board of directors. Mr Kozyrev played a key role in the new foreign policy following erestroika, and he opposed the coup of 1991. At that point Boris Yeltsin sent him to Paris to set up a democratic Russian government in exile in case the coup succeeded.

At least ICN will know who to send in to deal with any recalcitrant shareholders ...

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One of the most humiliating weeks in the history of the lockey Club (formed 1752) ended at 13.09 yesterday when Jamie Osborne, Dean Gallagher and Leighton Aspell emerged from Portman Square comment since last Wednesand confirmed their jockeys' licences had been returned. They remain puzzled why they were confiscated in the first place.

There was no revelation from the Jockey Club yesterday about their original decision. ▲They maintain they acted with racing's integrity in mind and to reassure public confidence; that the men questioned, but not charged, by police investigating told to wait on the pavement.

of their business. Mrs Ramsden.

her husband Jack and champi-

on Flat jockey Kieran Fallon,

are suing The Sporting Life for

**KELSO** 

\_ > 178

1.30 Aghawadda Gold

3.00 TOM BRODIE (nap)

2.00 River Challenge 2.30 Robbo

Mrs Ramsden told Mr Jus-

doping and race-fixing were correctly banned.

It is the confidence in racing's lawmen, however, that has been called into question. "I've spent 10 years working with the Jockey Club but the last seven days have been difficult. I felt we may have received a better response," Michael Caulfield, secretary to 100 per cent fit." the Jockeys' Association, said yesterday. "Their behaviour has in action as he will partner been curious to say the least, but the jockeys can now return to

their working environment." There is little doubt the Jockey Club has been rattled by some of the rather beastly press day's suspensions. At the outset of a crisp morning there did seem, however, to be something of a rapprochement as reporters were welcomed through the portals. The mood changed, though, as soon as the two-hour meeting between the jockeys, their legal representatives and the Licens-

ing Committee was over. The

press horde was shooed out and

welfare, had a bet on.

3.30 Buabhall Mor 4.00 Fiscal Policy 4.30 Chamning Admiral

The Ramsdens, who train at

Thirsk and Fallon were the

subject of a "savage onslaught"

Cees won the 1995 Chester

The trainer Lynda Ramsden ten she had no idea which

yesterday denied there was "a horse her husband, who man-

conflict" between her husband's ages the racing side while she

gambling success and her side concentrated on the horses'

libel for saying they were cheats. in The Life after their horse Top

tice Morland and a jury at the Cup. The Life said the couple

High Court in London that of- and Fallon conspired to deceive

HYPERION

3.00 FOM BHODIE (trap)

GORNG: Good to Stot (Soft in places).

eUndustring course Run-in of two furiorigs.

eCourse is N of town off 88461. ADMISSION: Cub 210; Tettersells 27 (CAPs 24, accompared under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

eLEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 37-123 (301%), M Hammond 23-108 (21.3%).

EADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 37-123 (301%), M Hammond 23-108 (21.3%).

EADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 37-123 (301%), P Montelth 15-120 (12.5%).

G Richards 18-91 (19.9%), J Howard Johnson 17-85 (20%), P Montelth 15-120 (12.5%).

eLEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 45-139 (32.4%), A Dobbin 25-159 (17.5%), B Storey 23-171 (13.5%), R Garritry 12-57 (21.3%), L Wyer 12-66 (18.2%), P Carberry 10-44 (22.7%)).

G FAVOURITES: 158-302 (40.3%).

BLINKERED FIRST TRIE: Ship The Builder (3.30).

1.30 ISLE OF SKYE BLENDED WHISKY 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (Div I) £3,750 added 2m 110yds £3,025

= 13 deciared = 13 deciared = 13 deciared = 15 deciared =

Mortey Prints, 14-1 Primination Length, art of Man GUIDE

Aghavizadda Gold made his debut in the competitive Haydock novice won by French
Aghavizadda Gold made his debut in the competitive Haydock novice won by French
Holly from Foundry Lane, faishing a respectable fourth — about 18 lengths off the win
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Holly from Foundry Lane, faishing a respectable fourth — about 18 lengths off the best
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Helly from Foundry Lane, faishing the faishing the

2.00 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) 25,500 added 3m 1f Penaity Value £4,022

2.00 | 101E NOTICE OFFICE (CONSTRUCTOR ADDRESS OF SOLUTIONS OF SOLUTIO

SWANBISTER has not raced this season but he can still be fancied to make a wirring SWANBISTER has not raced this season but he can still be fancied to make a wirring cart over tences. He would be expected to best most of today's opposition over hursard over tences. He would be expected to best most of today's opposition over hursard over tences. He would be expected to best most of today's opposition over hursard over tences. He would be expected to best most of today's opposition over hursard over aced before now but for meetings being abendoned before Christmas. Recan have raced before now but for meetings being abendoned before Christmas. Recan with a Bendoned has been aced to the same of the start of the form and his first-time-out for Britishes and Nosa Sound. Swant-wireness this season include the nowice chasers Cetic Glant and Nosa Sound. Swant-wireness this season include the novice chasers Cetic Glant and Nosa Sound. Swant-wireness this season include the novice chasers cetic Glant and Nosa Sound. Swant-wireness this season include the novice of the same course last season he has started to the same course last season he has started to the same course last season he received the same course he same course the same course same same course. He same course the same same course same same cou

2.30 GLASSEDIN SCOTTISH HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value 24,065

7 ROBBO (19 O); Airs D Scarth Mrs M Reveloy (18 S. 1 DEEP WATER (USA) (139 (CD) (The County Set) M Hammond (18 S. 1 DEEP WATER (USA) (139 (CD) (The County Set) M Hammond (18 S. 1 SEC) (The County Set) M Hammond (18 S. 1 SEC) (USA) (139 (CD) (The County Set) M Hammond (18 S. 1 SEC) (USA) (19 Sec) (The Sun Paris Chib.) J Howard Johnson (10 SKY High (1995) (The Sun Purses Chib.) J Howard Johnson (10 SKY High (1995)) (The Sun Purses Chib.) J Howard Johnson (10 SKY High (1995))

Ramsden denies trainer-gambler combination 'lethal' claim

The three jockeys eventually emerged and expertly pierced a crescent of television cameramen, snappers and hacks, relaving little more than their joy. Gallagher said: "I'm delighted. I will not ride tomorrow or Friday because I've missed a few days but by Saturday I will be

Aspell is likely to be the first

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Classic Find (Lingfield 3.50) **NB:** New Yorker

(Lingfield 4.20)

Josh Gifford's New Rising in a novice hurdle this afternoon if Towcester survives a 7.30am inspection. He is also pencilled in for three at Lingfield tomorrow and at least as many on Sandown's Saturday card.

Osborne's immediate challenge is to recover from a broken left wrist in time for National Hunt's greatest meeting. He said: "If I'm going to be horseracing is a very close one,

the racing public by deliberately

not trying to win the Swaffham

Handicap at Newmarket three

weeks earlier. Publishers MGN

Ltd - part-owners of The Inde-

pendent - deny libel. They say

the article is true in substance

and fact or fair comment on a

Richard Hartley QC, cross-

gested the trainer-gambler case continues today.

3.00 RIEKE HETTRICK'S WEDDING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,720

POLITICAL TOWER has faced some stiff tasks this season, trying to give two stone to Monnaie Fort on his reappearance at Ayr and taking on Marello here last time. In between, Political Tower was unable to five with front-running Cauliar over hundles at Wethertween, Political Tower was unable to five with front-running Cauliar over hundles at Wethertween, Political Tower has a chance of by but there is no disgrace in that. Back over fences, Political Tower has a chance of grings away the weight because Nethertry Said has yet to come right and Briar's Degring away the weight because Nethertry Said has yet to come right and erraries as the said Sappointing in novice light and Super Sandy are 11b and 25b out of the handicap, Deappointing in novice is chasses (beatien faceurite three out of tout). Tom Brodle is not as good over tences as chasses over hundles but perhaps handicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps headicaps are the way forward following his Musselhe was over hundles at the following his Musselhe was over hundles but perhaps heading of the said of the hundles had been an advantaged by the heavy ground on the following his following his following his over a description of the following his followi

3.30 ISLE OF SKYE BLENDED WHISKY "NH" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (Div II) £3,750 added 2m 110yds £3,025

(CLASS D) (Div II) £3,750 added 2m 110yds £3,025

1 20064 BOUNDTOHONOUR (12) Peier Gommer) J Howard Johnson 6 to 3. A S Smith
2 0-22 BUARHALL MOR (13) Paul Fizpatrody M Tochunter 5 to 3. L Where
3 6 HAPPY BLAKE (289) Bibs J Tock) Mrs J Sonry 7 to 3. D Parker
4 25360 MR TIES COMPONENTS (21) (Res Components Ltn) Mrs M Reselvy 6 to 3. G Lee
5 45-22 POLAR KANG (41) Bray C Thorston 5 to 3. M Foster
6 00-65 OUESIS BRIGADE (19) (Mrs F T Wathor) F Wathor 6 to 3. M Foster
7 2FUP-0 Size THE BUILDER (28) (The Shipments) C Grant 6 to 3. C McContrack (5) B
9 0UU WHAT THE HECK (27) (J A Sephenson) P Cheestrough 6 to 3. A Dobbia
9 0UU WHAT THE HECK (27) (J A Sephenson) P Cheestrough 6 to 3. B Story
10 4-522 LIMBACK LADY (50) (J McGront) B Mactaggert 8 to 2. T Reed
17 506 MILL BEE (23) MV Gened W Reed 5 to 2. T Reed
18 11 WHAT THE HECK (27) (D) (Lady Mas Hei) Mrs M Fereley 7 to 12 Power
19 12 1/F WYNDARD LADY (20) (D) (Lady Mas Hei) Mrs M Fereley 7 to 12 Power
19 12-1 Mr Tees Components, Wee Bra, 14-1 Queens Brigade, 25-1 Happy Blake, 33-1 others
1997: No corresponding race

Howard Johnson has won with ex-Herry Oliver-trained hardiers such as My Shenandoah and Irlsh Wildoard this term and he can do the same with BOUNDTOHONOUR, who and Irlsh Wildoard this term and he can do the same with BOUNDTOHONOUR, who faded into fourth behind Birkstale over three miss plus at Carterick after leading for much added into fourth behind Boundbhonour's second outing over hurdles, and he could of the way. That was only Boundbhonour's second outing over hurdles, and he could easily strip fitter for that comeback run. He is over a much shorter trip today but forcing easily strip fitter for that comeback run. He is over a much shorter trip today but forcing easily strip fitter for that comeback and at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela, Runner-tedits and a significant drop in distance paid off for hish Wildcard at Cartela

4.00 ALBA COUNTRY FOODS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £1,861

ALBA COUNTRY FOODS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS 1)

1 POAP BUCKBOARD BOHNCE (282) Robert Option) G Richards 12 2 2 ... Mr T Sout (5)

1 PPH- DAY BLAKE (369) (CD) (7 N Dolgsty) 1 Degaty 17 2 2 ... Mr T Sout (7)

2 PPH- DAY BLAKE (369) (CD) (7 N Dolgsty) 1 Degaty 17 2 2 ... Mr T Sout (7)

3 UASS- PORDSTOWN 253) Learne Alexander J Bercley 9 28 ... Mr J Alexander (7)

3 UASS- PORDSTOWN 253) Learne Alexander J Bercley 9 28 ... Mr J Alexander (7)

4 25-UP GREENHOUNT LAD (117) LI Condorth 9 Complete 10 25 ... Mr M Bradburne (7)

5 PPH- BUCKS DELIGHT (31) (Mrs Richard Arthur) Mrs R Arthur 10 25 ... Mr M Bradburne (7)

6 221. BISSIGN EWART (287) (Major Mr W Sample) Mrs J Sovey 7 25 ... Mr H Notton (7)

8 3UT-4 PISCAL POUCY (117) (AR Richard) A Totter 10 11 2 ... Mr R Totter (7)

8 3UT-4 PISCAL POUCY (117) (AR Richard) A Totter 10 11 2 ... Mr R Totter (7)

9 AUSI-4 ARCTIC LEADER (117) (A Glichnist) A Glichnist 8 17 ... Mr R Totter (7)

PETTING: 46 Brackboard Bounce, 7-2 Davy Blake, 11-2 Ensign Event, 12-1 Fiscal Policy, 20-1

Arctic Leader, 25-1 Blacks Delight, 33-1 others

FORM GLIDDE

Fourth to Lord Gyllene in test year's Grand National, Buckboard Bounce is the class 1997. Jighme 8 11 7 Mr M Bradburne (7) 5-2 bis (1) Hughes) 8 ran

FORM GLIDDE

Fourth to Lord Gyllene in test year's Grand National, Buckboard Bounce is the class of the barrier of the State 1997. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry customer, however, and could need this en aging. Buckboard Bounce can be a turry

Binkered for the first time, Charming Admiral made all and beat a big field of novices at Catterick on New Year's Day, in that sort of form, Charming Admiral might be difficult to catch in this handcap, even under 12st, because it is difficult to be confident about to catch in this handcap, even under 12st, because it is difficult to be confident about the others making the most of the weight they receive. RALLEGIO is the choice, it might be worth overfooling his recent fourth to Rom Brode in a chase at Musseburgh (bink-be worth overfooling his recent fourth to Rom Brode in a chase at Musseburgh (bink-be worth overfooling his recent fourth to Rom Brode in a chase at Musseburgh (bink-be worth overfooling his recent fourth to Rom Brode in a chase at Musseburgh leads this second end Parlath less of ser finishers) because he seems happier over hundlet this second end Parlath less of ser finishers) because he seems happier over hundlet this second end Parlath less of ser finishers) because he seems Sound 14 lengths beack in third relief head of the second had 1 lengths beach in third hand had been second to seem out after beating tour others can define the second for the first time since Musseburgh in December, He has probably (including Rubbishaw) in a first-time visor at Musseburgh in December, He has probably for the first time since Musseburgh.

examining for The Life, sug-

matter of public interest.

need to be riding out within four weeks. I'm delighted we all got our licences back and the Festival is still my main aim."

The riders were not embittered, however, and it was clear there had been some sort of plea bargaining, and that it was the Jockey Club who had been rescued. Rather than a broadside from a battleship, they received a slap on the bottom with a rowing boat oar.

The Jockey Club produced no evidence against the riders yesterday. They did not explain why they embarked on the campaign of "soundings" among the racing industry that ultimately freed the jockeys, and they did not refute the accusation that the "weighing-room three" would still be banned now had it not been for the insistence of their solicitors that yesterday's

combination was "lethal", but

Mrs Ramsden said all her hors-

es were trying to win and her

husband did not back them all.

was due to her husband's "bet-

ting wiles" that they had been

able to build up the yard. Mrs

Ramsden said the business

would still have developed if he

had not been a gambler. The

Mr Hartley asked whether it

meeting be held. Christopher Foster, the Jockey Club's executive director, said: "The community of

ready to ride at Cheltenham, I and it is understandable strong emotions were aroused. The Jockey Club will continue to do everything in its powers to maintain the integrity of horseracing." The jockeys themselves will

now continue to do what they do best. Caulfield added: "The most natural environment for these jockeys is on a horse and the most unnatural environment is sitting in highly pressurised meetings at Portman Square and dealing with the intense, but natural, media interest. The one thing which jockeys can actually handle is the pressure of riding racehorses, be it 1,000 people or 50,000 at the Cheltenham Festival. They're more nervous about dealing with situations such as today's."

Some of the jockeys' questioners this last week have not been acting with any great ease either. The Jockey Club's spirit can hardly have been raised yesterday as the pavement scrum dispersed just as the theme of compensation was floated into the cold air.



Back in business: Jamie Osborne answers questions after Photograph: Allsport having his licence restored

TOWCESTER

1.40 D'Naan 2.10 Simpson 2.40 Soloman 3.10 Intermagic 3.40 Storm Tiger 4.10 Thursday Night 4.40 Russell Road

GOING: Good.

Right-hand, undulating circuit. Plum-in of 140yds.
Course is on A5 SE of fown. Bus service from Northempton station. ADBRISSION: Members £12; Tattersells £2; Course £3. CAR

SEROIT AUGUSTA PARKERS: D Nicholson 29-89 (42%). O Brenman \*\*PARK: Free.\*\*

\*\*OLEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 29-89 (42%). O Brenman 16-113 (14.2%). Mrs. J Pitman 9-40 (22.5%). T Forster 9-77 (11.7%). 16-113 (14.2%). Mrs. J Pitman 19-12 (14.3%). N Williamson 0LEADING JOCKEYS: M Brenman 19-12 (14.3%). N Williamson 14-64 (21.5%). A P McCoy 25-56 (24.3%). M A Pitzgerald 2-61 (23.7%). 16-PAVOURTES: %24-457 (39.7%). M A Pitzgerald 2-61 (23.7%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Dantes Amour (140) (vsored). Ebullient BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Dantes Amour (140) (vsored).

1.40 CANONS ASHBY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 22,000 added 2m St 

2.10 LAMPORT HALL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 1f 2-1U (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 1f

1 1U-311 SALEY THE STARS (20) (C) T Forster 9 ti 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S Wymte
2 84P-0P MONTECOT (FR) (12) S Melor 9 ti 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S Powall
3 FP-32F GENERAL PONSO (28) T George 9 to 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson
4 115-5 MAPLE DANCER (12) D Williams 12 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Williamson
5 12P2P CHURCH LAW (19) (D) Mrs L Sylor 11 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_ N Williamson
6 1/F681 DOCS DILEMBA (5) (D) D Shaw 9 10 0 Each \_\_\_\_\_ Gary Lyons
7 F2-25 GAELIC BLUE (49) (D) Mrs S Smith 8 10 0 \_\_\_\_ R Williamson (5)
8 25-72 SALESON (53) (C) (D) J Ott 31 10 \_\_\_\_\_ R Williamson (5)
9 1-0PP BALLYDOUGAN (10) (CD) R Melinew 10 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ S Carran V \_\_\_\_\_ 9 declared \_\_\_\_\_ 9 declared \_\_\_\_\_\_ Suleson 951 3th, Gaelic Blue 951 17th, Serpson 951 3th, Ballydougan 8ct 10.
BETTINGS 5-2 Sall By The Sars, 3-1 General Pongo, 11-2 Simpson, 13-2 Docs Dilemma, 8-1 Charch Les, Geelle Blue, 10-1 Maple Dancer, 12-1 Montecot, 33-1 Ballydougan

2.40 MICHAEL MCMANUS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m

16 d TITURELAND RESERVE (22 U Nating Single 4 to 2.14 increase — 18 declared —
BETTING: 11-8 Solomen, 9-4 Salest, 4-1 Wild Riba, 14-1 Fools Future, 16-1 New Rising, 20-1 Hernitton Princess, Tauten Boy, 33-1 others

3.10 GEOFFREY LYDALL MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000

3.40 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

4.40 DANIEL BRAZIER INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

ters that Splendid Thyne will only run in the Tote Bookmakers Sandown Handicap Hurdle if there is rain before Saturday. The Tote reported support for Big Strand from 9-2 to 4-1.

— 14 decissed —

Minimum weight: 10st Time tendings weights: Downto Set Tall, Nurse Corne Set Sth.

BETTBNC: 3-1 Storm Tiger, 5-1 Supermick, 13-2 Platentents Pei, 7-1 Silvertials Knight, 8-1 Ambidentrous, 10-1 Decetto, Sylven Sahre, 12-1 Belmoral Princese, Team Screenble, 16-1 Current Speech, Manclete, Test
Match, 20-1 others

4.10 ALTHORP HOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 110yds 1 -1F62F THURSDAY NIGHT (40) P Nichels 7 20 \_\_Mr J Theand (5)
2 39-50 JUST BRAUSE (13) (D) Ms E Heath 9 115 \_\_\_\_ A Thombon
3 W544 NOT MY LNE (255) (CD) W Cauched 9 11 0 \_\_Mr A Sancome
4 5U-103 CAWARRA 90Y (14) (D) E L. lance 10 10.9 \_\_\_ A R Karenegh
— 4 declared BETTRIC: 13-8 Thursday Night, 9-4 Comuna Boy, 100-30 Just Bruce,

◆Terry Casey yesterday warned ante-post pun-

#### LINGFIELD (AW)

1.50 Rise 'N Shine 2.20 Palacegate Touch 2.50 Graimano 3.20 Pinup 3.50 Sea Danzig (nb) 4.20 Sharbadarid

GOING: Slow.

STALLS: St & tm - outside; rest - Inside.

DRAW ADMANTAGE: Low best over St & 82.

©Equitrack: surface; isit-hand, sharp undutating course.

©Course is SE of town on B2028. LingSald station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members/Farmily Endosure E10 (accompanied under-18s free). CAR PARK: Club S3; remainder free.

©LEADING TRAINERS: QL Micore 77-581 (35%), M Johnston 50-279 (175%), F Hennon 46-332 (139%) Lord Hundingdon 56-201 (185%).

©LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 68-534 (127%), S Sanders 57-538 (106%), S Whittenorth 46-320 (144%), D Holland 41-196 (209%).

© FAYOURITES: 885-2071 (331%).

BLINKENED FIRST TIME: Jusie (150) (visored), Victoria House (220), Kalinka (350), Silver Joy (120).

1.50 PRIMROSE HANDICAP (CLASS F) 23,000 added 51

2.20 WISTERIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) \$3,000 added 71

2.50 FORSYTHIA STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m

2 S26 BARBASON (5) (CD) G L Moore 68 6. Candy Morns 5
2 TST0 MR NEVERBRID (286) (CD) G L Moore 68 6. M Wighten 1
3 F040 PRINCE OF NOTA (98) Lord Hurrington 69 6. D Harrison 2
4 0250 SEPERY CLASSIC (18) (C) M HESS 99 6. Dann O'Nell's
5 S21 SPEELY CLASSIC (18) (C) M HESS 99 6. Dann O'Nell's
6 2021- GRAJMANO (39) (D) N Lismoden 38 11 ... S Whilwords 3
7 1 SNOW AND EE (28) (CD) H Cardy 38 1 ... C Rutter 7
7 Section 4. Prince Of India, Speady Classic, 6-1 Snow And Ice, 8-1 Sarbason, 20-1 Silvering

3.20 JAPONICA HANDICAP (CLASS E)

530-1 MEANS BUSINESS (6) (D) J. Hatterton 8 'S (Sa), T. Siddall (7) 5
044-14 SCOTTLAND SAY (1-9, (CD), (SP) R Harmon 9 2. Dann O'Nolli 6
000-2 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann McKeronn 1
0-8 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann McKeronn 1
00-8 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann McKeronn 1
00-8 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann McKeronn 1
00-8 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann McKeronn 1
00-8 MARIANA (S) R Whiteler 5 8. Dann R S Drouter 4
000-51 PROT DEA (16) S Dow 8 0. R First DEA (16) S Dow 8 0. P Doe (7) 3
000-0 VELVET STORY (34) P Barre 8 0. J Online 7 V
-8 declared -- 8 dactared -BETTING: 5-2 Pirmp, 3-1 Scotland Bay, 7-2 Mariana, 7-1 Means Besi-ness, 10-1 Magic Morning, Starp Steel, First Idea, 18-1 Velvet Story 3.50 CLEMATIS HANDICAP (CLASS D)

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handkap weights: Homesteed 7st Bib, La Chesebine 7 of 85.
BETTING: 11-4 See Denzig, 3-1 Classic Find, 9-2 Brilliant Red, 11-2 Sweet
Sepposin, 13-2 Dick Torpic, 8-1 Homestend, 14-1 Kelinka, 20-1 La Chatelaine 4.20 BUDDLEIA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 4f

520 MUTABASSIR (9) G.L. Moore 4 9 10.... 9520-2 SHARBADARID (95) S Dow 4 9 10..... 6 SALKY DANCER (17) G Ham 5 8 8.... 

Silver Joy, 25 Saucy Dencer ●After nine years of consistently deeming the all-weather going to be "Standard", Lingfield breaks new ground today by varying its going description to "Slow".

SAILING

#### Mistakes put Heiner under black cloud

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Paul Standbridge's Toshiba was holding off Chessie Racing as the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet continued to make slow progress south yes-

The fifth leg, which started from Auckland on Saturday, has failed to get the nine boats off to a flier on the 6,670-mile run

Some skippers are already to Brazil. anxious about food supplies most boats took enough for only 24 days - while Roy Heiner is working to lift the depression which has settled over the Dutch back marker, Brunel Sunergy.

"It's back to the catch-up game," he said, "and I hate it. Two nights ago we were in the middle of the fleet. We are not getting our wind predictions right."

The fleet, which has now passed the Chatham Islands, has now effectively split into two groups, with the six most westerly boats all within nine miles of each other from front to back and 10 miles west to east.

The all-female EF Education averaged the fastest speed of the morning with 11.2 knots. ● Tracey Edwards and her allwoman crew on the catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance completed 450 miles in the first 24 hours of their attempt to beat the women's circumnavigation record. Yesterday morning they were 80 miles south south-west of Cape Finisterre in the Bay of

Biscay.
WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
INTO leg, 6,670 miles, Auckland, NZ, to Silo
Sabastiko, Braj: Toritha (US) P Standbridge 59863 miles to finien; 2 Chessie Racing (US) D Smith: 17 miles behind; 3 Ment Cup
(Monaco) G Delton +31; 4 Swedch March
(Swe) G Krantz +68; 5 Sik Cut (GB) L Smith
+68; 6 EF Language (Swe) PCayard +88;
7 Innovation Krasmer (Nor) K Frostad +57;
8 EF Education (Swe) C Guilou +192; 9
Brunel Sunergy (Nath) R Heiner 67).

SNOOKER

#### Ebdon's skills ebb away

Peter Ebdon found it impossible to combat Nigel Bond in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre

yesterday. The world No 5, who has been in bed for almost a week with flu, lost 6-2 as Bond set up a quarter-final against Stephen Lee or the six-times Masters

champion Stephen Hendry. Bond swiftly established a 2-0 advantage with breaks of 72 and 112 before Ebdon fought back to level at 2-2. Ebdon won the third frame on the blue and the fourth with an 80 clearance after Bond had missed a straightforward black off its spot when up 45-0. But when play resumed following the in-

terval Ebdon faded badly. Ebdon, who has not win a tournament since beating Bond in the final of the Thailand Open last March, became increasingly frustrated. In a bizarre end to frame seven, Ebdon was trailing 52-1, but with five reds and therefore 67 points left on the table, he missed an elementary black to a middle pocket.

Ebdon could not disguise his disgust and conceded the frame - even though Bond needed to pot three more balls to leave him requiring snookers. In the eighth frame, Ebdon, who had aggregated only 12 points in the previous three, missed four open pots to complete a depressing performance.

TODAY'S FIXTURES PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Stockport v Barnstey (70) jet Hyde Urd) League Cap Group Four. Stoke V Buy (71) jet Newcastle Town). Group Sto. Transace v Biscippod (730). FAI HARP LAGER CUP Second round SUPRESS CUP: Newcastle Cobras v Man-chester Storm (70); Basingstoke Boon v Not-tingham Partners (730); Condiff Devid v Bracknell Bess (730)

SNOOKER: Benson & Hedges Masters (& Wembley Cordesence Centra). TABLE TENNIS: European Men's League First Division. England v Greece (at Potters Holiday Vitage. Greet Yaumouth)

END	ENT
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#### RESULTS

market Richard

WOLVERHAMPTON 1.30: 1. TIME OF NIGHT (O Pears) 11-4 tar. 2. Clotton 4-1; 3. Great Chief 10-1.9 ren. 11, ad. (J.L. Eyre, Thirsk). Total: \$3.50; \$150, \$170, \$2.20, \$05: \$880, \$355; \$135. Tri-Cast 19857. This: 14900.

2.00: T. BATSMAN (D Holland) 7-4 jt far, 2. Concert Acad 7-4 jt feet, 3. Over The Moon 7-1 g role, 5-6 (W Masson, Newsterland, Roles C260; C100 C100, C210, OF, C250, CSF; SA85 Tocast \$17.72 Tho: \$1860.

2.30: 1. MARY JANE (P Fessey) 5-2: 2. Festiverstone Lane 2-1 faxt 3. Chemicast 9-2: 12 ran. 174, 1/4. (J Berry, Cockstram). 70: 5340; 5250, 5440, 5150, DF: 5440, CSF: 5240, 5250, 5440, 5150, DF: 5440, CSF: 5240, 5250, 5440

Total S340, \$250, \$140, \$150, DF: \$140, CSF: \$221, Trio: \$1150.

3.00: 1. ALBAHA (C Lowther) 6-1; 2. 3.00: 1. ALBAHA (C Lowther) 6-1; 2. 4. 5.00: 1. ALBAHA (C Lowther) 6-1; 2. 5.00: 1. ALBAHA (C Lowther) 6-1; 2. 4. 6 ran. 2-1 tay Swen Hanter (6th) 10, 2. (J 6 ran. 2-1 tay Swen Hanter (6th) 10, 2. (J 6 ran. 2-1 tay Swen Hanter (6th) 10, 2. (J 6 ran. 2-1 tay Swen Hanter (6th) 10, 2. (J 6 ran. 3-10; 1. SORRIDAR (R Lapoin) 2-1 tay; 3.30: 1. SORRIDAR (R Lapoin) 2-1 tay; 3.30: 1. SORRIDAR (R Lapoin) 6-1. 7 ran. 8, 1% (J L Eyre, Therst.) Total \$3.30:

2190, 1230, DF: 2610, CSF: 1727, NR: 4.00. 1. DARWELL'S FOLLY (D Holland) House On Fire, 5-1; 2. Rockswein 7-2; 3. Just Another Tions 5-2; https://doi.org/10.100 4.30: 1. ORANGE BUSH (L Chemock) 4.SR. 1. CHANGE BUSH (L Chartock)
Evens 1st, 2. Arcane Star B-1; 3. Risky
Whiseky 2-1 8 ran. 1½, 4 (P Hesiam, Middeham). Tota: £2.20; £110, £210, £100 DF:
£1100. CSP: £1005.

5.00: 1. TOUGH LEADER (R Firench) 10-1; 2. Rambo Waltzer 7-1; 3. Perpetual Light 14-1. 8 ran. 11-10 fev Bouckite (4th).

Light 14-1. 8 Tail. 11-10 Hav BOWLETE (RT). Sh-hd, sh-hd. (B. Hambury, Newmarket). Rele EBUT; \$140, \$150, \$450, DP. \$1740, CSF. \$7712. Tricast: \$510.35. Place 0t. \$53.82. Place 5: \$2316.

Yesterday's meetings at Leicester and Windsor were abandoned because of frost.

# Ambrose casts shadow as Atherton ponders tactics

The pitch again presents Michael Atherton with a conundrum as the England captain prepares for the second Test against West Indies, Which starts today.

Derek Pringle reports from Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Calypso is the singing journalism of Trinidad and as topical as any newspaper. With the next two Tests about to be played back to back on Brian Lara's home turf, the lyrics all predict defeat for England. Carnival may be the spectacle Port of Spain is famous for, but for the moment cricket is the hot topic and in the music shops that line Prince and Frederick Street, the rhymes were about Michael Atherton's team "getting a good lickin"," on a pitch "that will be kickin'."

They may not be far wrong, either. After the fiasco at Sabina Park, the 22-yard strip where the essential business of the game is conducted, has been under the kind of scrutiny normally reserved for flesh-eating bugs. But if Sabina, with its cracks and corrugations was obviously substandard, this one, well covered with lush green grass, is also raising a few eyebrows.

When grass is left on Test pitches it is usually dead and rolled well into the surface. Here it is live and although the pitch will receive another mowing before play starts this morning, it will still do more than a passable imitation of the verdant Trent Bridge carpet that Richard Hadlee and Clive Rice reigned supreme on in 1981, when Nottinghamshire won the County



Running men: England's Jack Russell (left) and Alec Stewart prepare for the start of today's Test match with a class of Trinidadian schoolchildren in Port of Spain yesterday

Normally, the captain winning the toss would not hesitate to bowl first. However, that decision will be compounded by the groundsman's action of covering the pitch during the day, a practice normally used to keep moisture in the surface. England did the same thing last summer in order to try to negate Shane Warne. But although England have no one of his calibre, lack of recent rain has clearly made the authorities nervous of the

All of which suggests that both the amount of grass as well as the designed to bind it together. If Atherton decide that England's

chase more than 150.

For that reason, winning the toss could be a poison chalice. If you insert the opposition and do not bowl them out for under 180, any advantage will be turned on its head if the pitch starts to break up, which is what mostly tends to happen in the Caribbean. It is this uncertainty that is

preventing the England captain from replacing Phil Tufnell with Ashley Cowan immediately. However, the Essex paceman will surely play alongside Caddick, covering to keep the sun off, are Fraser and Headley should here without playing much

side batting last will not want to -which, if the pitch is not given ence. With one false start already. a close shave this morning, they ought to do.

If the surface presents a tricky dilemma, there must be get the series started." concerns too about England's the tourists are into their second such inactivity is disorientating and frustrating, and many are clearly still feeling their way.

"It's true that we've been meaningful cricket," said Ather-

the main problem has been to mitted: "Everyone was itching to

The same could be said of lack of preparation. Amazingly, Lara, his opposite number, captaining the West Indies for the may expose them should they mouth on tour, and so far only first time in front of his home 13 players have been to the mid-crowd. "It is very special and sigdle. For cricketers used to playnificant to play with your home ing almost every day at home, crowd behind you, especially with the series still level," he said. "I'll definitely be looking to produce something special with my bat and with the captaincy."

the game goes the distance, the best chances lie in bowling first ton, at yesterday's press confer- to win his 50th Test cap and bol- is one of Curtly Ambrose's ster the middle order, John favourites grounds. Four years ago, England be-Crawley will return to the No 3 keep focused and Atherton ad- role briefly occupied by Mark gan the final innings of the game needing 194, and were slight Butcher in Kingston. On current

> have to bat first. England have not won here since Tony Greig's off-spinners bowled them to victory 24 years ago. Since then, batsmen have always had to work hard for their runs at the Queen's Park Oval and the effectiveness of Eng-

form, Crawley has yet to look set-

tled. It is the one obvious weak-

ness England have, and one that

of all time by just two runs. It was a spell that began with the removal of Atherton first ball. He may not be a street poet like With Jack Russell, barring any land's top order will surely be the great calypsonians downlast-minute stomach upsets, set compromised by the fact that this town, but in the sounding-off that

favourites to win. At the end of

the day's play 15 overs later, Eng-

land were 40 for 8, laid to waste

of all time, as England, eventu-

avoiding their lowest. Test score

often accompanies Test matches, Ambrose, usually a secretive man, is being ominously chatty about his duels with the England

"England need a foundation and that often comes from Athers. If you can knock the chief by the beanpole Antiguan, who down, it might make the job a bit tougher for those to come."

bowled one of the heroic spells When asked why he tended ally all out for 46, succeeded in to bowl well at the Queen's Park Oval, he lapsed back into reticence, saying: "I won't be taking anything for granted. You have to prove yourself day in and day out." On this grassy pitch, England will not be unhappy if he decides to delay it a few days.

TENNIS

Rampant Rusedski

on march

Greg Rusedski, the No 1 seed in

the Croatian Indoor Champi-

onship in Split, pounded his way

the world rankings, said: "The

court here is a bit quicker than

will suit my game and gives my

five double-faults, served with

great zest and allowed Pozzi, a

32-year-old fellow left hander,

only one break point in the

match. Pozzi, the oldest man in

the 24-year-old Rusedski for the

of his opponent's first or second

could get his racket to the ball.

Pozzi in the sixth game of the

first set for a 4-2 lead, taking it

6-3 in 26 minutes. Then, after

missing four break points in the

third game of the second set,

Rusedski broke through again

next two service games for vic-

tory, winning the final game with

a flourish, hitting two service

winners and two aces to give Pozzi no chance of recovery.

now meet Jan Kroslak, of Slo-

vakia, in the second round. They

have only met once before when

Japan Open in Tokyo in 1995.

Rusedski, who reached the final of this event last year, will

30Ver

Rusedski, in contrast, broke

service which he repeatedly re-

Certainly Rusedski, despite

serve that little extra zip."

After defeating the Italian

RUGBY UNION: FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

## Frozen France go for pace and verve

The French are having trouble with a frozen pitch, but not with team selection. The radical changes made to their side for Saturday's Five Nations' opener look certain to make things hot for England. Chris Hewett and

John Lichfield report from

You might call it a multi-million franc coq-up. The Stade de France was under cover yesterday as claret-cheeked Parisians armed with 12 British industrial blowers worked around the clock to thaw its frozen surface in time for Saturday's Five Nations confrontation with the English.

By dusk, the pitch was still more suited to the triple salkow and double lutz than the eightman shove, but hope springs eternal among the harassed Tricolores.

Stadium officials insisted that the kindly weather forecast for the next 36 hours or so made an embarrassing postponement increasingly unlikely, but their optimism did not stop Bernard Lapasset, the president of the French rugby federation, stamping his haute couture footwear in fury at the lack of precautions taken against a cold snap everyone knew was coming.

consider putting an ice-skater on the bench, just in case.

We're not looking to mi crowave the pitch... We'll be cooking it really slowly over the next 24 to 28 hours," said Nigel Felton of Sportstadia Services, the British firm brought in to rescue the game.

Success, however, may not mean that the French can rest easy. Stadium officials have admitted that there is a risk that the warming of the pitch, followed by 80 minutes of international rugby, will force the delicate turf to be replaced, at a cost of £1m.

Since the relaying could not begin until the spring, there would be a risk that the playing surface would not be in peak condition for the opening match of football's World Cup between Scotland and Brazil on 10 June.

If England are anticipating a frosty reception from 80,000 Frenchmen on Saturday, it will be nowhere near as chilly as the one awaiting David McHugh. The Irish referee was called to duty vesterday when Derek Bevan of Wales, the original choice, failed a fitness test on an injured

Given that McHugh was the touchjudge who controversially flagged Yvan Manhes, the Brive second row, for obstruction in the dying seconds of last weekend's

AROUND THE RESORTS

"I'm divided between anger Heineken Cup final and thus pre-feated Brive side have been seand derision," he said, adding sented Bath with the trophy, he lected, although Philippe Carthat the French coaches might can expect to have his parentage bonneau very nearly lost out to Scottish rugby is on its touches down in Paris.

> Not that Jean-Claude Skrela whatever foibles and peculiarities McHugh may bring to the equation. They believe their new team - newer even than the Stade de France, which is precisely one football international old - has the pace, verve and Gallic brio to register a fourth successive vic-

tory over Les Rosbifs. Skrela has made eight changes to the side thoroughly humiliated by a pie-hot Springbok outfit at the Parc des Princes in November and even though only Christophe Dominici, the Stade Français left wing whose spectacular progress has made him the talk of the French domestic campaign, will be winning a first cap, there is a freshness to the line-up that has set a few alarm bells ring-

ing on this side of the Channel. "In a sense, the nature of the South African victory has rebounded on us," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said yesterday. "They have torn everything up, started again and picked a side that is bound to be a handful for us. It has youth, it has pace. In many ways, it is my kind of team."

Three tortured and tormented members of the de-

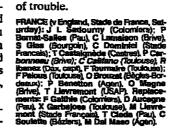
questioned from the moment he Fabien Galthie at scrum-half knees and the Irish are and Christophe Lamaison, whose goal-kicking nerve crumand his fellow French coaches are bled so spectacularly during wasting too much thought on injury time in Bordeaux, needed to pass the sporting equivalent of a psychiatric test before

convincing the selectors of his

emotional well-being.

But the most striking aspect of the side is to be found in the back five of the scrum, where both locks and the entire breakaway combination have played serious rugby at No 8, the thinking player's position. Thomas Lievremont of Perpignan has been given the rover's role, even though his single cap as a replacement against Wales two years ago makes him the least experienced internationalist of the

quintet. However, the emphasis is on intelligence, mobility and quality handling and if England fail to match the French in the wide areas of the field, they may find themselves in a whole lot



England's élite clubs have rejected the European Cup in a dispute over the scheduling of fixtures and want to set up their own Anglo-French tournament.

Peter Wheeler, spokesman for England's top 12 clubs, said: "Our decision remains unchanged. The clubs have no confidence in ERC."

# to turn round Scottish fortunes

waiting to push their faces further in the mud in Dublin on Saturday. lim Telfer has had a week to rally his bravehearts and, as George O'Sullivan reports, if anyone can reverse the decline, the new-style 'Great Man' can.

Jim Telfer, that devoted rugby enthusiast and veteran of Lions tours (one as a player, two as coach) sat pondering the way ahead for Scotland. "I've pointed out to the play-

ers," said the 57-year-old Telfer, who took over as coach from Richie Dixon last Friday, "that they have to relax and not think about rugby all the time. If they do, nervous exhaustion creeps in." Experienced Telfer watchers

reeled in astonishment. For this was perhaps the closest that the Great Man - rugby's equivalent of the guru of Scottish football, Jock Stein - has come in some time to publicly hinting that rugby is only a game.

A moment of truth came moments later when Arthur Hastie. the Scotland team manager sitting alongside Telfer, said: "We might well go for a pint of Guinness on Thursday night."

Telfer muttered inaudibly, but the fact his utterance came accompanied by a smile confirmed the mellowness of which he had spoken earlier on his return to a job which saw him help Scotland to Grand Slams in 1984 and 1990.

Inevitably the new-style Telfer, who has also found time to make Melrose the premier



Signs of mellowing as Telfer tries

Telfer: 'It is the standard of performance that matters'

club in Scotland, will be a particularly vital factor in the outcome of Saturday's game which will see Scotland seek what would be only their third win in

13 internationals. As John Roxburgh, who, until his retirement this season as the Scottish Rugby Union's technical director was effectively Telfer's No 2, said this week: "The Scottish team have lost the ability to win. It's nothing new - the same thing happened in the 70's - and Scotland came out of the tunnel then. If anybody can turn things around this time it is Jim Telfer."

"But I really hope the management get the balance right because in addition to losing the winning habit some of the players are looking tired.

"Jim will be the first to admit that in his early coaching career he was not good at knowing when to stop. There is a balance between flogging the players and baying them up mentally. The guys have got to have a spark left in them."

The point will not have been lost on Telfer. However, his players were still late for the launch of television commercial. having been delayed putting fin- tory, you can drop short."

ishing touches to their preparations at Murravfield. The new coach knows he has

taken on a tremendous responsibility and a team on its knees. "Tve done nothing else than : Gianluca Pozzi 6-3, 6-4 in 58 think about it," he said. "It's a minutes, Rusedski, who has strange situation. I'm not look- dropped from sixth to eighth in ? ing forward to it greatly at all.

"I do look forward to the challenge, but there is an abyss in Zagreb where the tournain front of us at the moment, ment was held last year but that something similar to the situations that the Lions have been in I suppose. You don't expect to do well. Then things happen and you wait and see. That's the challenge of top-class rugby."

Telfer, the son of a shepherd who as a youngster learned to play using pig's bladders as the tournament, was meeting rugby balls and went on to win 25 Scotland caps, warmed to his first time and could make little

"I've reminded the players that every match they play is a turned into the net when he piece of history. It's recorded in a book," he said. "If they play a club match nobody bothers with the result really. If they play a district match it's the same.

"The fact that internationals are remembered is the challenge. You are judged on the day. You can look back and in the seventh game to go up they'll never erase whatever 4-3. Rusedski then held his the result was against South Africa or Australia...

As for Scotland's tactics against the Irish, Telfer, often portrayed as dour in his approach, again showed a refreshing willingness to embrace the new era where rugby is entertainment.

"The players must be positive," he said. "To a coach, winning is important. But it is Rusedski beat his opponent 6-3, the standard of performance 7-6 in the second round of the that is important. "If you put in a good stan-

dard you give yourself a chance of a win. If you just go for vic-

Speculation mounted that

Dwyer and the Tigers would part

#### TODAY'S NUMBER

#### **750**

The number of pounds that. Leicester City's Garry Parker was fined by the FA yesterday for foul and abusive language to a referee - anoffence committed while the former Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa midfielder was running the line during the Morrells Oxford Sunday League game between Cherwell Lions and Cowley Cosmos.

# SNOW REPORTS

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#### **Brittle fuels** élite feud

Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union, has escalated the feud between Twickenham and the leading clubs by outlawing the proposed Anglo-French competition.

Brittle, in a joint statement with Bernard Lapasset, the French federation president, said: "The RFU and the FFR have agreed that they will not support any Anglo-French competition which is outside the orpanisation of European Rugby

"We're doing the only thing possible to make sure we have a long-term future at Moseley." Moselcy's commercial manag-

Moseley, seventh in Allied Duner, Mike Sheasby, said. "The denied he is about to leave the club, but hinted he may go if he bar Premiership Two, have bebottom line is our income is come the most prominent is unable to bring success.

Struggling Moseley go into administration

victims of the new professional penditure is. I don't think there era by going into financial adis any doubt we will last the seaministration. The Birminghamson and there's no doubt credbased club, one of the oldest in itors will be paid. England, may also take the step "But it may mean we must of letting their players go semigo into a semi-professional sitprofessional in order to sur-

uation by finding jobs for our players to suit their qualifications either inside the club or in outside business." Leicester's director of coach-

company after he admitted he was "disillusioned" following Leicester's defeat at Gloucester

on Sunday which effectively ended their hopes of winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership. "I get disappointed like everyone else. But time en-

ables you to concentrate on the ing. Bob Dwyer, yesterday more positive aspects," he said.

# Though many in boxing would like to, it is far too early to be writing off Don King

Towards the end of last year the American cable network Home

he has mined from the fight game. In his time King has seen off the traced Don King's rise from numbers racketeer and jailbird to a position of almost absolute power in professional boxing.

Well acted, it was a reminder that King is never at a loss for suckers, even if he must recycle them; the church elders who were hustled into endorsing one of King's earliest promotions, the fighters who mistook bondage for generosity, the casino operators, even presidents who fell under his spell.

Unmitigated gall has been King's trump card - "Only in America" since he got out of jail, an art form refined until it shone like the gold

FBL, the Inland Revenue Service and foes in boxing. Nothing is forever but King seemed to be, his personal demands the reason why HBO found it impossible to fund a contest between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis that would have uni-

fied the heavyweight championship. Until last weekend King was looking at the profitable alternative of a third meeting between Holyfield and Mike Tyson whose appeal against an indefinite suspension imposed for biting Holyfield's ear will be heard in June by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Last weekend changed things. Angered by a \$7m (£4.2m) tax deficit

Tyson is reported to have fallen out violently with King and his co-managers. John Home and Rory Holloway, in Los Angeles and split with them. This could prove more theatrical than anything else when Tyson is reminded of ring earnings in excess of \$150 (£91m) since being paroled three years ago and the many con-

nections King can call on in boxing. King's technique in these matters is to hold back the hammer blow until it becomes clear that nothing can be gained from negotiation. First, Tyson is likely to hear that regaining his licence in time to meet Holyfield later this year might be difficult without King's backing.

There are twists and turns in this,



KEN JONES

including King's claim on half the \$2.2m (£1.34m) fee to act as referee in a wrestling extravaganza, that have led Tyson into discussions with music entrepreneurs Jeff Wald and Irving Azoff who helped proa rape conviction there were rumours that King was not working in his best interests. Soon after Tyson's release it became clear that he was no longer in King's pocket.

One thing for Tyson to consider, though vanity may blind him to it, is that he remains the most marketable figure in sport only through images formed from the first phase of his career in the ring and ongoing scandal. The fighter who lost twice to Holyfield bore no comparison to the one who once spread fear throughout the heavyweight division.

Many critics think him to be shot, and a certainty to be knocked out again in a third contest against the

champion. "If the fight comes you can bet that it will be the richest in history," Michael Katz of the New York Post said yesterday, "but Tyson now is no more than a small heavyweight with short arms who is no longer intimidating. Holyfield would flatten him. So would Lewis."

King tried to calm the waters yesterday referring to Tyson's frustration and the need to get him back into training. Nevertheless we can be sure that he has lawyers looking at any possible loopholes. King has survived enough crises in his time for anyone to suppose that, at 66, he no longer has the zest or energy for confrontation. "A lot of people in and

mote George Foreman's last fights.

During the time Tyson served for

World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation

around boxing would like to see Don
bite the dust," somebody said yesa big blow to him. But you just can't write this guy off." According to Dr Flias Ghanem, who is chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission and sympathetic to King, Tyson has already signed with Wald and Azof. "King, Holloway and Horne are in uproar about," he said.

"They are going to stop it or sue." One of King's secrets is words. Silly as some of them sound - "trickeration" has long been one of his favourites - they have helped spare King from taking the falls in boxing many wished for. He needs them all now because nobody's heart bleeds

with

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:en

# Newcastle increase bid for Speed

Newcastle United made a complaint with the European £5.5m bid for Everton's transfer-seeking captain Gary Speed yesterday and hope to complete refusing to allow them to move the deal in the next 24 hours.

Kenny Dalglish is keen to take his spending spree beyoud £10m in a matter of days by capturing the Welsh international midfielder Speed with a new improved offer.

Speed is in the mood to move after refusing to play for Everton at West Ham last week and his gesture has been Dublin. matched by Newcastle, who have added £1m to their previous bid for him.

The Football Association will investigate the trouble yet most admired defence stays which marred Reading's FA Cup replay against Cardiff City at Elm Park on Tuesday. A female steward was hit in the face and a ball girl was shoved in separate incidents during the tie, which Reading won on penalties.

Double, who was at Elm Park. said they would be looking into mouth incident because nothing as serious as that happened."

Manchester United claim they are still in the race to sign Carlisle United's Matt Jansen. The Old Trafford club and Crystal Palace have made offers for the 20-year-old striker. Palace feel they have the edge over United because they are ready to offer Jansen first-team to serve his apprenticeship in the reservés at Old Trafford.

The Old Trafford chairman. Martin Edwards, said: "We have shown an interest and we made an offer to Carlisle for Man Jansen last week. We're a still waiting to hear back from Carlisle."

Wimbledon have lodged a

Commission in Brussels against the Football Association for to a new stadium in Dublin.

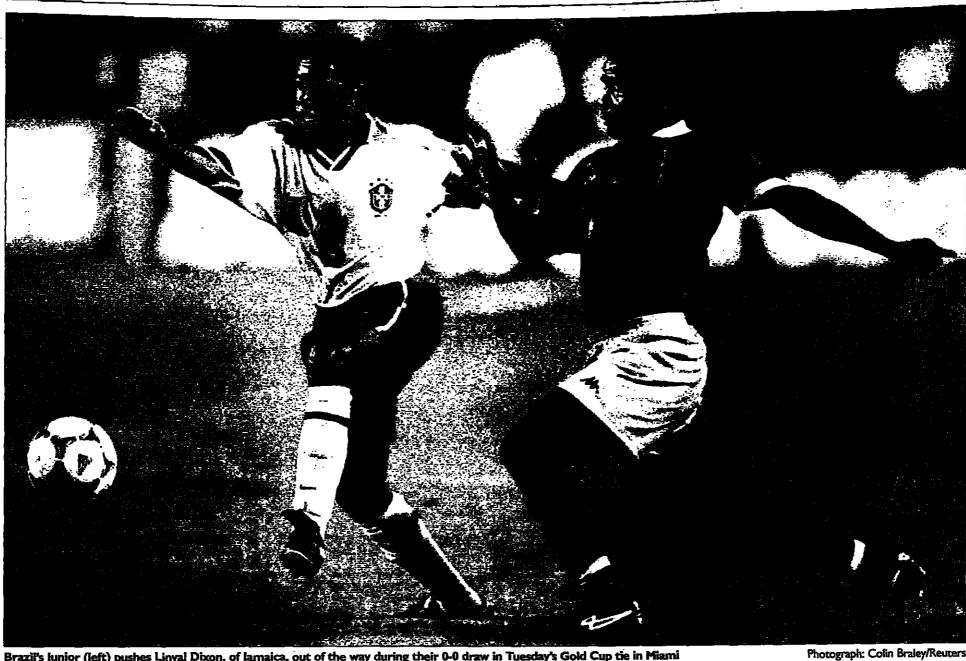
The London club want to take up an offer they say has been received from an Irish syndicate, headed by a property developer, Eoin O'Callaghan, and Paul McGuinness, the manager of the rock group U2, to move to a purpose-built 60,000 seat stadium on the outskirts of

Arsenal look set to offer new one-year contracts to Steve Bould and Nigel Winterburn to ensure the Premiership's oldest together for at least another season. Bould, 35, and Winterburn, 34, reach the end of their current Highbury deals this summer and, unless offered improved terms, would be entitled to leave the club on free trans-An FA spokesman, Steve fers under the Bosman ruling.

Chelsea's Ed de Goey and Arsenal's Marc Overmars have the last night's incidents. "We're been cleared to play in the secawaiting the reports from the ond leg of the Coca-Cola Cup referee and the police before de- semi final at Stamford Bridge on ciding what action, if any, to 18 February. They have been take," he said. "But there is no given permission to arrive late warm-up matches in the United States later this month. Likewise, Nottingham Forest's Pierre van Hooijdonk can play in a First Division fixture against

Huddersfield the previous day. The Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, was fined £2.500 by the FA yesterday after being found guilty of insulting and improper language football, whereas he would have towards the referee Jeff Winter after the game against Everton on 28 December.

The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has recalled the midfielder David Thompson from his loan spell at Swindon after Jason McAteer suffered a broken leg against Blackburn Rovers last Saturday.



comparison with the Ports- for the Netherlands' World Cup Brazil's Junior (left) pushes Linval Dixon, of Jamaica, out of the way during their 0-0 draw in Tuesday's Gold Cup tie in Miami

## Brown learns how to baffle Brazil

Craig Brown looked on as Brazil were held to a draw by Jamaica last night – but he is still convinced the South Americans are out of this world.

The Scotland manager flew to Florida to see at first hand the South American superstars, his team's first World Cup opponents in France this summer. Scotland face Brazil in their opening match of the finals on 10 June at the new Stade de France in St Denis.

The world champions had to settle for a 0-0 draw against the

Jamaicans in Miami's Orange concerned there were no sur-Bowl in their opening match of the Concacaf Gold Cup. Their frustration boiled over when Junior Bajano was dismissed in the final minute for a forearm

smash on Theodore Whitmore. The game only helped to enhance the Brazilians' reputation as being slow starters in major competitions. Brown said: They are a very good team, no

prises about their play.

"The plus points from my point of view was that Jamaica have the same shape as ourselves and I saw how they operated in that framework tonight," Brown added.

The addition of several English-based players has given the Caribbean side a definite edge "Brazil are still an outstanding and made them difficult opposide and could have had three nents to break down. The or four goals against Jamaica. Portsmouth pair, Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall, were indoubt about that. As far as I am cluded in the starting line-up

against Brazil, as was Derby's Deon Burton, Frank Sinclair of Chelsea made his international debut, while Wimbledon's Marcus Gayle came on for the fell through.

last 23 minutes. Hall almost broke the deadson only to see Brazil's goal- have all played for their coun- fielder, Martin Gomez, may be keener Claudio Taffarel beat try at youth level away his shot. Hall was also unlucky not to win a penalty in the 82nd minute when he appeared

They arrived at Maine Road on Tuesday and will make their Boys squad, the winger Pablo lock in the 15th minute after a debuts in the A team on Satfine crossfield pass from Simp- urday against Burnley. They

> Pablo dos Reis, at 20 the se-- Ken Gaunt, Miami £500,000. The winger Miguel

the long march to Maine Road Manchester City are to give a Manzoni, 17, is rated in the trial to six young Argentinians same price range.

after a putative deal with Celtic The defender Martin Figueroa and the striker Gaston Piaquadio are in the Newells Old Modica is at Rosario Central. while the Independiente midthe nick of the bunch at 18.

Six Argentinian recruits make

All six have dual nationalinior player in the group, is ty and either Italian or Spanish with the champions River Plate passports, so there will be no and would cost around problem with work permits. - Alan Nixon

#### SPORTING DIGEST

#### DRUGS IN SPORT

#### Warning over cold cure

The chief drug tester at the Winter Ohmpies in Nagano, Japan, has warned National Hockey League players competing in the games to stay off Sudafed.

The over-the-counter cold remedy is one of the International Olympic Committee's banned substances and Dr Makoto Uéki believes some ice hockey players will run into trouble because of it.

"Sudafed is not an accepted substance," said Ueki, the director of the IOC drug testing laboratory. "It is prohibited, even for colds. It cannot be used." It was reported last week that 20 per cent of NHL players routinely use Sudafed.

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are scheduled to meet in Orlando, Florida next month, must approve Clancy's acquisition of the Vildings.

Boxing
Lennox Lewis will head a Transstlantic, British v America World title night on 28 March. The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion defends his title against the New Yorker Shannon Briggs in Atlantic City, where Sherifields Herol Graham will make his third World title challenge against the International Boxing Federation Super middleweight champion. Charles Brewer, or Philadelphia. At the Hull los Arens, Paul Lloyd, the British and Commonweatth champion, will fight Tim Austin, from Cincinnati, for the ISF banamweight crown and Terry Durstan,

Cricket

American football

American roots and agreement on Tuesday to purchase the Mirnesota Vidings. Clancy will head up a group paying in excess of \$200m, a record for an NFL team. Three-quarters of the 30 NFL owners, who are exhet set in meet in Orlando. age of 24.27, scoring one century and eight 50s.

NBA: Phoenix 110 Toronto 105; Charlotte 93 Soston 95; Houston 110 Vancouver 97; Cr-lando 91 Atlanta 90; Milweulise 82 New York 78; Portland 98 New Jersey 97; San Anto-nio 105 Goldon State 96; LA Cippers 111 Utah 102; Indiana 115 Sacramento 93.

Basketball

Boxing rusus, sum or manual, or manual terry Duristan, of Hackney, is scheduled to meet imam. Mayfield, the IBF cruiserweight champion though that depends on Dunstan beating Ukraine's Alexander Gurov for the vacant European title on

14 February. Cricket:
A shoulder triury has forced Shane Warne out of Australie's tour of New Zealand. The leg spinner said he will have treatment on his right shoulder which became increasingly sore during the drawn final Test against South Africa that ended on Tuesday. The brief New Zealand tour comprises four one-day games on 8, 10, 12 and 14 February but Australia will not replace Warne in their squad. Warne aims to be fit for their tour of India later this month.

Dave Richardson, who has kept wicket in all but one of South Africa's 43 Test

matches since their readmission to international play in 1991, announced his retirement from international cricket yesterday. He will retire from the came completely at the end of the do-mestic season. Richardson, 38, said that an arthritic condition of his hip helped him make up his minut. He holds the South African Test record for 152 dismissals (150 catches, two stump-ings) and he scored 1,358 runs, at an

and eight 50s.

Worcestershire's left-arm spinner Richard lingworth received a county record sum of £271,275 from his benefit test year.

FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Hamilton, NZ): New Zeeland 248 for 7 (C Z Harris 52nc, N J Astle 49); Zimbabwe 208 (A Flower 60; D L Vettori 4-46; 482 overs), New Zeeland von by 40 runs.

SHEFFELD SHIELD (Melbourne, second day of sour): Victoria 591 for 9 dec (L Harper 18; D M Jones 16); Western Australia 174 for 6 (Sydney first day of four): Resmartat 202 (D C Boon 61 no; S MacGil 6-84); New South Welse 86 for 4. (Briebenne, first day of four): Queerstand 236 (B Young 5-64); South Australia 25 for 1.

Football

Football
CHILE SCUAD (International friendly v
England, Westabley, Wednesday): GoalIrespers: Tapia (Universidad Catolica):
Respers: Tapia (Universidad Catolica):
Respect (Colo Coto). Defenders: Rojes
(Colo Coto). Genese (Cotrelos), Merges (Universidad Catolica), Clarra (Audiex halismo).
R Respect (Universidad de Chile), L Ruestes
(Coquimbo Unido), West (Cotrelos), Midfielders: Vegs (Sentisgo Winderers), Acutis
(Universidad de Chile), Gadatines (Universidad de Chile), Praguez (Universidad de Chile), Villardel (Santiago Wanderers),
Valentzuela (America, Mer), Camajo (Universidad (America, Mer), Camajo (Universidad Naevo Leon, Mex), Barrelra
(Universidad de Chile), Netia (Colo Colo).
PA CUp Fifth round: Fidure changes: Pin (Universidad de Crisis), Neira (COO Ciro).
FA CUP Pitti round: Froure shenges: Fri
13 Feb: Sheffled Litd v Reading (80). Sun
15 Feb: Arsensi v Crystal Palsos (2.0, live
on (70); Menchesier Utd v Totterham or
Barnsley (4.30, live on Sty Sports).
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Floire
changes: Size 20 New Whiters v Performants real CONTROL FOOTBALL LEAGUE Floure changes: Sur 29 Mar: Wolves v Pertamouth (from 28 Mar.) Sun 5 Apr. Notingham Forest v pawich from 4 Apr.). Fit 10 Apr. Sunderland v Queen's Park Rangers (from 11 Apr.).

Derby have taken the Italian midlielder

Alessandro Orlando on trial for two

days. The Udinese player will join tellow trainens Stefano Eranio and Francesco Baiano. Oriendo, 27, made 17 ap-pearances in Serie A last season but he has been unable to hold down a regular first-team place this season. Queen's Park Rangers have signed Williams on loan for one month. The 20-year-old comes in as cover for Lee Harper because Tony Roberts is out for the season with a hand injury and

Jürgen Sommer has returned to the United States. United States.

The former athlete Pletro Mennee has taken over as director-general of the Italian Serie B side Salemitana. Mennee, who held the world 200 metres record for 17 years, will be responsible for the clubs media relations.

ice hockey NHL: Florida 1 Detroit 1 (ot); Los Angeles 6 Calgary 3; Chicago 4 Phoenix 2.

Motor racing Motor racing
Karel van Miert, the European Competition commissioner, yesterday accused FIA, motorsports ruing body, of abusing its position and warned that his organisation would not sumender to bullying. The commissioner referred to move to circument the Belgian I was forthirding in the account. gian law forbidding tobacco advertising from 1 January 1999. FIA has said that if this is enforced it will remove the Belgian Grand Prix from the Formula One calendar. Craig Wison has joined the Williams Formula One team from Tyrrell to be-come Heirz-Harald Frentzen's race

engineer for the 1998 season. Pools dividends SRITTENS: Trible chance (two dividends only): 24pts: 25127; 25: 2100. Four draws: 2200. Eight homes: 53035. Five aways: 2450.

274.00.
LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts:
E137145; 23 £26.75; 22: £3.25; Four draws:
£235; Nipe homes (paid on eight correct):
£2820. Five aways: £2360. EXECUTIVE INVESTMENTS: 1/25/01.
ZETTERS: Treble Chance: 24pts: 232.5.
23.0175 Tao dividends: Four assiys: 98.00.
Eight homes: \$78.40, Four draws (from all 22 draws): 2130.48 chance throm all 22 draws): 24pts: \$140. Feb Five: \$28.25, Lucky Numbers: 15-18-5-38-23-11. Rugby League

Rugby League
Featherstone Lions, one of four ameteur sides still in the Slik Cut Chellenge
Cup, have been banned from all
ameteur knock-out competitions for
five years. The club, who play their tle
against Hull Kingston Rovers at Post
Office Road next Friday, were involved
in a brawl at the end of their Yorkshire
Cup final against Siddal.

Rugby Union Harlequins have appointed Huw Morgan to the post of chief executive to take over from Conaid Ken, who will concentrate on his role as chairman of English Rugby Pertnership Ltd. Kerr, acting chief executive since last April, will remain a director of the club.

AUSTRALIA CUP (Perth, WA) Third day: 1 D Barker (NZ) 12 wins, 2 losses; 2= P @mour (Aus) 11-4; 2= M Hothberg (Swe) 11-4; 4= T Basic (Cro) 10-5; 4= S Destramau

FOOTBALL RESULTS Yesterday AVON BISURANCE COMBINATION: Charl-ton Airletic 2 Luton 0; Wimbledon 2 Crystal Palace 1. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Auckland): New Zealand 0 Chie 0.

Tuesday's late results Tuesday's late results

FA CLIP Fourth-round replaye: Reading 1 (Mariey 50 Cardiff 1 (Date 40) letter eater stree; Reading win 4-3 on pensities and are away to Sheffled Utdy; Sheffled Utdy; Sheffled Utd 1 (Futchison pen 15) leswich 0; Wolvas 3 (Curle pen 29, Kaylor 48, Pasteishinen 65) Chenton 0 (Wolves away to Wintbledon).

NATIONWINE FOOTBALL (LEAGUE Second Division: Blackgool 2 (Preces 54, Bent 88) Enstel City 2 (Hawvistt 68, 76). Third Division: Doncaster 0 Mansfeld 3 (Eustace 20, Whitshield 48, Harper 64).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD Northern quarter-final: Burnley 4 (Payton 18, Virnicombe 61, Cooles 73, Handerson 89) Carliste 1 (Protes 50) (Burnley at home to Preston).

TENNESVIS SCOTTISH CLIP Third-round re-

(Protas 55) (Burnley at home to Preston). TEMBENTS SCOTTESH CUP Third-nound re-play; Ross County 1 (Adams pen 99) Alichie to (Ross County at home to Dundee). BELL'S SCOTTESH LEAGUE First Division: Ratin 2 (Lennon pen 23, Dargo 70) Falchik 0. Second Division: Brechin 1 (Black 45) Cusen of the South 1 (Branstey 87); Stan-housement 2 (Armstrong pan 44 Christie 73)

(Aus) 10-5; 6 N Wittey (Aus) 7-8; 7 J Spithili (Aus) 7-8; 8= G Lucas (Aus) 6-8; 8= L Piliot (Fr) 6-8; 10 D Clark (Aus) 5-8; 11 N Celon (II) 4-11; 12 G Stalduko (Rus) 1-14.

to be fouled by Goncalves.

BENSON AND HEDGES MASTERS (Wambley Conference Centre) Second round: S Davis (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wat) 6-2; N Bond (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-2

Speedway Stoke have signed one of Sweden's sold have signed unto or sweduns best tearage prospects, the 17-year-old Fredrik Pettersson who had a fine first year with the Swedish Ethe League club Indianema last season. Stoke have also signed the experienced Danish internetional Richard July who rode for Berwick and Newcestie last season.

CROATIAN ATP INDOOR TOURNA-MENT (Spiil) First round: G Rusedsid (GE) bt G Pozzi (fl) 6-3 6-4; M Sinner (Ger) bt

Forter 2 (Naim 5t, McLauchlan 80), Third Dj-vision: Alos 3 (Irvine 6, 31, Simpson 50) Ar-broath 1 (Thomson 68). ENDLY MATCH: Morthyr Tyddi 3 Strengbury Town 3. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH; FA XI 1 British

Students XI 2 (at Durham City). Students XI 2 (at Durham City).
FA UNIDRO TROPHY Second-round replayer Sough 2 Helifax 0 Stough at home to Borehem Wood); Burton Albion 2 Gloucester Cay (Gloucester win 0-5 on penellies after terra time and are away to Savenage).
UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division; Stocksbridge Park Steels 2 Septer 0 President's Cupsecond round: Guiselly 0 Leigh Raft 0 President's Cup second round: Guiselly 0 Leigh Raft 0 President's Cup second round: Guiselly 0 Leigh Raft 0 President's Cup second round: Guiselly 0 Leigh Raft 0 President's Cup second round: Cup Third round: Spartans 4 Boston Util 2 (act).

DR MARTIENS LEAGUE CUP Third round: Reddikch 1 Stouthridge 0. Fourth round: Reddisch 1 Stoutpridge 0. Fourth round: Dorchester 1 Bashley 1; Margase 2 Cambridge City 1; Moor Green 3 Beston 3. Cay 1; Moor Green 3 Boaston 3.

FYSIAM LEAGUE First Division: Thems 0 Bilericay 2; Abington Town 1 Bognor Rogis 2.
Second Division: Leighton 0 Brainises 4 Third
Division: Aneloy 3 Heritori 0; Second 3 Evel
1 Procived Heath 0, Vandentel Trophy third
round: Northwood 3 Carwey Island 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Followood invited 3 Bookenham 0.

CONSISTENT DIPLOME 124 ANTE PROCISE THE

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Backwel 2 Chippenham 2: Melkaham 0 Taunton 2:

INTERLINK EXPRESS MODILAND ALLIANCE: Bridgmorth 2 Oldbury 3. Industrial Rewinds League Cup second-round replay: Pelsal Vi-in 0 Bervell 4. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Harfeld Main 0 North Ferrity 2; Hardrail 0 Oesett Ablon 0; Liversedge 1 Thick-

UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Surgess HE 2 Portfield C; Littlehampton 2 Shoreham Q. 2 Shomhain 0.
PRESS 2 JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE
Cachresundin 4 Brow Rangers 1.
IRISH COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP First
resent Arts 0 Cittonvills 1; Gantonni 1 Namy
fact, Newy win 3-2 on pens); Cremgh 2 Crusaders 2 (set, Cremgh win 6-5 on pens); Dungarnon 2 Colemins 3; Destiley 3 Fortadown 0;
Liniad 3 Bangor 0; Cartist Rangers 0 Gensaon
7; Larne 2 Ballymens 3
PONTINS 1 EAGUE Benefits Didelated Look

Lineard 3 Banger of Cerrick Rangers of Genesion 7; Larne 2 Bashyrens 3.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leeds 0 Notinghern Forest 2 (at Halfax Town). First Division: Grimatoly 1 Bolton 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION Flest Division: Areans 1 Ousen's Park Rangers 1.

THE TIMES FA YOU'TH CUIP Fourth resent Areans 3 Bristol City 1; Orsee Allegade 1 Yesternam Holspur C; Washord 2 Everton 3.

BISHAMUL 18 ACCUSE 2016 0 Develop 2. FRENCH LEAGUE: Besta O Permes O; Stras-bourg O Monaco O. SPANISH CUP Cuarter-Smal first leg: Athletic Bilbac 2 Maliora 1

Navarra (II) bt M Lee (GB) 2-6 6-3 6-2: R Welderfield (Isr) bit H Koll (Nor) 6-2 7-5: M Verkerk (Neith) bt J Layne (GB) 7-6 7-5: M Merry (Neith) bt G Gaito (II) 6-4 6-7 6-2: R Matheson (GB) bt B Reir (II) 6-3 6-2. V Liukto (Fin) bt L Milligan (GB) 6-3 6-3: N Gould (GB) bt E Gross (II) 6-4 6-4: F Lovern (Swe) bt T Spiriks (GB) 6-3 3-6 7-6, F Browne (Arg) bt I Bates (GB) 4-6 6-3 6-4 WOMEN'S SATELLITE TOURNAMENT (The Wirrel) Second round: J Chaouchury (GB) bt A Zeponochenova (Ukr) 6-4 4-6 6-2, Algares (GB) bt K Kamere (Ger) 4-6 6-3 6-1: J Ward (GB) bt L Cartwright (GB) 6-2 6-0. G Cesoni (II) bt H Van Auldren (Neth) 7-5 6-4: M Kourstaal (Neth) bt H Reesby (GE) 6-4 6-6-2 6-1; N Hubnerova (Cz Rep) bt K Cross (GB) 8-0 7-6. T Johansson (Swe) 7-6 8-4; D Sanguinetfi (it) bt A Rackiescu (Ger) 1-6 4-4 ret; J
Siemarini: (Neih) bt P Fredriktson (Swe)
7-6 8-1; J Kroslak (Slovak) bt J A Marin (C
Rica) 7-6 8-3; R Vasek (Cz Rep) bt D
Pescariu (Rom) 6-4 8-4; M Demm (Cz Rep)
bt J Sanchez (Sp) 8-9 7-8; A Merinov (Fus)
bt I Mottoven (Form) 8-4 6-4; B Sector (Ger)
bt F Bergin (Swe) 6-3 7-8; M Rosset (Swit)
bt R Furfan (R) 3-6 6-2 6-3. Second
round: K Carlson (Den) bt A Medvedov
(UKO) 6-3 6-7 6-1. (Us) 6-3 6-7 6-1
TORAY PAN PACIFIC OPEN (Tokyo) First round: S Reeves (US) bt C Yoon-Jeong (S Kor) 6-3 6-4; M Alejandra Vento (Ven) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-0 6-3; N Sawarnatsu (Japan) bt M Sendhez-Lorenzo (Sp) 6-1 6-1
J Kruger (SA) bt N Zverova (Beta) 6-4 7B. Second round: M Hingis (Swif) bt E Likhovtesva (Rus) 6-1 6-0; I Majoli (Cros) bt LI Fang (Chine) 6-3 3-0 ret.
MEM'S SATEL INTEL TOLIBRAMENT MEN'S SATELLITE TOURNAMENT (Bramball) First round: A Hunt (NZ) bt O Sela (ks) 6-23-66-3; A Pretzsch (Gen) bt W Arthurs (Aus) 7-86-4; D Van Uffelen (Be) bt B Cowan (GB) 6-36-4; T Lansen (Den) bt D Roberts (SA) 6-26-4; M Belgraver (Nath) bt J Schorz (Gen) 6-37-8; A Par-mar (GB) bt M Nielsen (NZ) 6-36-2; J Del-gado (GB) bt T Susnjek (NZ) 6-16-2; M

THE INDEPENDENT Henry Blofeld's West Indies Cricket Commentary

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# Angry Tyson 'down to last few millions' as King attempts to heal the rift



Tyson: Feels betrayed by King and is seeking to break his contracts with the promoter

Whatever happens in the end, the falling-out between Mike Tyson and Don King is consuming the world of boxing.

John Carlin and Ken Jones report on a day of claim and counter-claim.

Mike Tyson, once the richest sportsman in history, is struggling to pay his bills, according to a report in yesterday's New York Post.

The former heavyweight boxing champion owes \$7m (£4.3m) in unpaid taxes and is down to only \$4m in ready cash, the Post said, adding that one source who has been in close contact with Tyson over

assets actually amount to no more than \$150,000.

Tyson, who has earned about \$110m in the ring since his release from prison three years ago, is reported to blame his financial embarrassments on his boxing promoter of the last 10 years, Don King, and his comanagers, John Horne and Rory Holloway.

According to numerous reports Tyson, feeling cruelly betrayed, wants to break his contracts with King and his comanagers and is seeking to switch his allegiance to the Los Angeles music entrepreneurs Irvine Azof and Jerry Wald, who have links with Michael Jackson. King having apparently failed him in the role of protector and surrogate father. Tyson is said

nership with Magic Johnson, the retired basketball star.

Confirming that tensions do indeed exist in Tyson's relationships with his associates. Horne and Holloway issued a joint statement saying, "there is sometimes a frustration and misunderstanding that can occur in the best of friendships and business relationships, and that's how we categorise this."

In a separate statement, Don King said: "I love Mike and he knows it, but there are often outside forces and individuals that frustration that comes from his lay-off as a result of the sus-

King's enduring love seems

the past week claims his liquid to be seeking to form a part-ceived from Tyson outside the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles on Saturday night. According to various sources close to Tyson he is more frustrated with King than he is with the decision of the Nevada State Athletic Commission to ban him from boxing for a year for biting a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear in the ring last summer. People who that could make him responsible have spent time with Tyson over for Don going to jail." the past few days say the fighter's moods have range from angry to near inconsolable.

The matter of dumping King is a bit more complicated. will try to capitalise on Mike's Sources say Tyson, while enraged at King, is reluctant to release any information that might jeopardise the promoter's chance at an acquittal when he side advice, told the Post it was a \$75m fortune depleted to the generous in the light of the is retried by the government for widely reported beating he re- mail fraud starting on 17 March.

Instead, Tyson is expected to nancial affairs. The lawyer said use the documentation of King's he was shocked to learn from alleged rip-offs as leverage to obtain a release from his promotional deal, which commits Tyson to fight four more times for King. "Mike's totally embarrassed by what Don did to him," a source is quoted as saying. "But he doesn't want to do anything

Tyson is said to have been apalled to discover that King and his co-managers had been creaming off a far larger share of his winnings than is customary in a relationship between a professional boxer and his handlers. A lawyer for a rival boxing promoter, called by Tyson for out-"embarrassing" to learn how little the boxer knew about his fi-

Tyson that he took home only \$11m before tax from the \$30m purse for his re-match against Evander Holyfield in June. King, the lawyer said, took 30 per cent, Horne and Holloway took 20 per cent and then Tyson coughed up the \$3.5m fine

Tyson's suspension, depriving him as it did of six months' work, cost him his place at the top of Forbes magazine's 1997 list of the world's highest paid athletes. It may be that Tyson fears a repeat of what happened in his "first" career, when he saw point that, while he was still in prison, his managers were forced

imposed on him for his bad eat-

ing habits by the Nevada Com-

mission.

to cash in a \$2m trust to pay Alan.

Dershowitz, Tyson's appellate

The Nevada commission with be deciding this summer whether to reinstate Tyson's boning in cence, but he is now seeking in make his money in the field of entertainment. Tyson is expected to announce today that he will be appearing next month at a professional wrestling bout in Boston. He is due to receive \$3.5m for playing the role of "guest referee" at Wrestlemania XIV, a pay-per-view event, on 29

March. However, even if Tyson is low in cash he does own three law ish homes, including a 70-acre estate in Ohio, the sale of which would go some way to restoring his bank balance to health.

Ken Jones, page 27

#### **FOOTBALL**

# **Positive news** after bad year for Rozental

Rangers' Chilean striker Sebas- A fixture against Brescia last tian Rozental pronounced himself well satisfied after coming through his first competitive 90 minutes for a year.

out for the past 12 months with returned for Rangers reserves prove their value. at Ibrox in a 3-0 win over their Tuesday. He said: "I felt very comfortable although my body was sore at the end. My knee felt fine and it will get better. I just have to be patient.

"I want to start playing for Rangers regularly as I aim to be in France for this World Cup this summer - I'm hoping for a much better year than last."

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, added: "The main thing is he got through unbuilding his sharpness and con- Duffy's successor.

squad is the River Plate striker Marcelo Salas, a recent transfer target for Manchester of greater urgency. United, who is negotiating a move to Lazio of Italy. However, the Internazionale forward Ivan Zamorano is unlikely to play, even though he has been named in the squad. He suffered a muscle injury in a Serie

Sunday and may be out for at least a fortnight.

Hibernian's director of development, Billy McNeill, yes-Rozental had been ruled terday warned the players who cost Jim Duffy his job as mana persistent knee problem but ager that time is running out to

McNeill, the former Celtic St Johnstone counterparts on captain and manager, has taken temporary charge at Easter Road and is ready to select the side for Saturday's trip to Aberdeen if required. That will depend on whether the chairman, Lex Gold, can attract one of his targets to the club this week, but the newcomer faces an unenviable challenge.

McNeill is firmly out of the running and whether he remains in the position he took up just last month after seven years out scathed and now he must keep of the game will be decided by

McNeill hopes the vacancy Rozental is part of the Chi-can be filled swiftly as he knows, lean squad which will face Eng- with Hibernian four points next Wednesday. Also in the Scottish Premier Division table and a mere 13 games remaining, there is a need for a mood

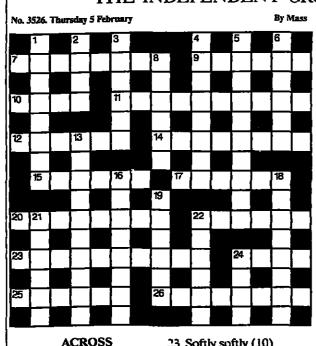
Gold's shortlist is understood to include the Newcastle coach Tommy Burns, another former Celtic manager, and the St Johnstone manager, Paul

- Simon Buckland

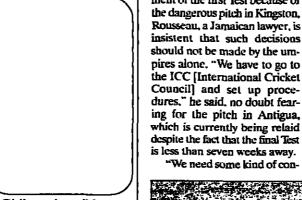


Blanket coverage: British field technician Nigel Felton takes a brush to the covered pitch at the Stade de France in Paris yesterday. The frozen turf threatens Saturday's opening Five Nations' Championship match between France and England Report, page 26; Photograph: Laurent Rebours/AP

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- 9 Cold area, not Southern part of Europe (6) 10 Bet on race one lost (4)
- 11 West despaired, played badly in international
- 12 Melt and submit (6) 14 Sally's packing Henry's
- clothes (8) 15 Approach Seychelles and stay (6)
- 17 Sensitivity in female judge (6) 20 Horses for courses? (8) 22 Gross state, undisguised 6
- 23 Softly softly (10) Catch fish on river - the 24 Trap King in game (4) kind to evoke cheer (8) 25 So crowds arrive, mostly
  - tipsy (4,2) 26 Pins loose ratlines (8)
  - Rubbishy (unlike Pale – some vitamin
  - lacking (4) Adipose carbon recycled
  - Hat brother gets crumpled in crush (5-5) Stretch or time, the European's inside (6)



- 8 Girl's cutting wild root 13 Stung, riled badly, and
- put out (10) Kent?) around East (8) 16 Service, say, including meat I ignored (8)
- 18 Note open safe (8) Blast the telephone! (6) 19 Support from dummy. with Spades in it (6) to make viewing projec- 21 Compositions quietly
  - 22 Fast? Search for food with Edward (6) 24 Speculator's yield (4)

written in examinations

How green is my wicket: A groundsman at the Queen's Park Oval prepares the strip

#### CRICKET

# All eyes on Trinidad pitch

Trinidad today, the pitch debate in the Caribbean refuses to die down. Pat Rousseau, the president of the West Indies Cricket Board, has called for a change in the rules to prevent the premature abandonment of Test matches in the future.

Following the swift curtailment of the first Test because of the dangerous pitch in Kingston, Rousseau, a Jamaican lawyer, is insistent that such decisions should not be made by the umpires alone. "We have to go to the ICC [International Cricket Council] and set up procedures," he said, no doubt fearing for the pitch in Antigua, which is currently being relaid despite the fact that the final Test

is less than seven weeks away.

for the today's start of second Test in Trinidad

With the second Test against sultation process that allows in-England due to start here in put from others involved in the game. After all, the effects of an abandoned game are farreaching."

It is a valid point, but if the WICB were hoping for the whole episode to die down, the well-grassed pitch scheduled for the second Test here has merely refocused the cricket media's attention.

However, while pundits were pontificating and predicting another shortened Test match, the opposing captains, Brian Lara and Michael Atherton, were playing a game of wait and see. With the pitch due to be cut again this morning, neither would commit themselves to naming an XI.

"It looks fairly well grassed and an even surface," Atherton said. "Sabina Park was a one-

off. I've played in the Caribbean before and the pitches have been absolutely fine. Of course I'm considering putting them in if I do win the toss, but much will depend on what the pitch

looks like in the morning. Lara, perhaps mindful of the dreadful pitch Australia had to play on here three years ago, was rather more forthright about his home ground's pitch.

"I don't think it will be a good idea to bat on it." he said after yesterday's team practice. "Both teams will have to be very cautious for the first session or two. There has been less time to prepare than normal, but I know the groundstaff will have done their best to produce a good wicket." Just how good will be re-

vealed over the next few days. Derek Pringle, Port of Spain Shadow of Ambrose, page 26



# Mick the Tyres.

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